New CW permits now available. PAGE 2
2 suspected burglars arrested. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Woman drowns at Obyan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres issues special marine advisory due to intensifying tropical storm

A Korean woman who was reported missing while swimming at Obyan Beach yesterday afternoon was later found dead during a search operation.

This developed as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued a special marine advisory due to Tropical Storm Sanvu. Torres urged the public and inexperienced mariners to avoid ven-

See WOMAN on Page 4

SHORT CHAT
ERWIN ENCINARES
From left, Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) share a quick talk during last Monday's Koblerville basketball court ribbon cutting.

IPI asks DPL to return $10M deposit

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has sought to retrieve a $10-million deposit it made with the Department of Public Lands, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo confirmed the information yesterday but declined to provide more specifics.

Details about the IPI request were not provided since Teregeyo has yet to meet with DPL lawyers to discuss

See IPI on Page 4

IN KOREA MISSILE LAUNCH

No immediate threat to NMI

The CNMI Office of the Governor, in concurrence with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, advises the public that there continues to be no indication of imminent threat from North Korea.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management agency remains in close coordination with the Mariana Regional Fusion Center, the Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense, and its military partners.

Around 7am yesterday morning, a missile launch toward Japan's northeast re-

RELATED NEWS
➤ N. Korea fires missile over Japan in aggressive test. PAGE 17

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Judge sanctions Weintraub

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government lawyer Betsy Weintraub was sanctioned yesterday for how she handled the sexual abuse case of a retired Army reservist.

Weintraub was sanctioned for alleged lack of diligence and dilatory tactics in the case. She was made to donate $500 to a non-profit group of her choice that helps children who are victims of sexual abuse.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio said that sanc-

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INSIDE

LOCAL
The Marianas Visitors Authority has fielded Saipan airport ambassadors.
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NATION
Harvey victims are using social media to share maps of their location and photos.
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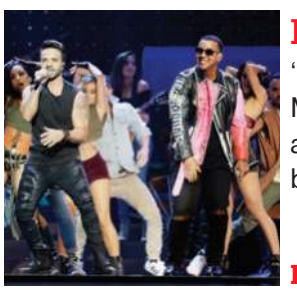

LIFE & STYLE
"Despacito" has tied Mariah Carey's record at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100.
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Local

New CW permits now available

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has begun implementing his Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act, which President Trump signed into law on Aug. 22.

An additional 350 CW-1 permits are now available for current employees whose permits expire between Aug. 23 and Sept. 30 of this year. The permits are good for a full year.

The legislation lifts the fiscal year cap on CW-1 permits from 12,998 to 13,348, the first time that the number of CW-1 permits has been allowed to increase.

Sablan introduced his legislation to help local businesses that rely on CW workers, but that were unable to renew their long-time employees after the sudden influx of Chinese construction workers used up available permits. Sablan's bill quickly passed the House in January, but faced prolonged resistance in the Senate because it added to the number of CW permits.

In addition to making more CW permits available, the new law also prohibits the use of CW permits for new construction workers, to avoid a repeat of this year's problem.

"Our existing construction companies will still be able to renew workers who have been here before Oct. 1, 2015," Sablan said. "But new construction workers are going to have to use H-2B visas, of which we have an unlimited number."

Sablan was able to get legislation enacted in 2014 that exempted the Marianas from the national cap on H-2B visas.

The Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act also puts increased emphasis on training local, U.S. workers to fill jobs now held by foreign workers. The education fee that employers must pay for every CW-1 worker they hire now goes from $150 to $200. These fees are turned over to the Commonwealth government, which has already received close to $10 million to train U.S. workers.

Looking ahead

Looking ahead, Sablan expressed concern about the number of CW permits that will be available for fiscal year 2018, which begins Oct. 1. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is expected to announce the cap soon.

"We had very good relationships with the Obama administration over the last eight years and were able to keep the cap high. Last year, USCIS only cut us by one permit, from 12,999 to 12,998.

"But now we have a new, get-tough-on-immigration President.

"Fortunately, Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres has met with the President and explained our continued need for outside labor. I hope the President listened to the governor and will keep the CW cap high, just as the Obama administration did."

Sablan said he also plans to resume discussions with the working group of congressional offices that helped write the Economic Expansion Act, when he returns to Washington next week.

"Our next task is to put together legislation that ensures the Marianas has enough labor beyond 2019 to keep our economy growing and to ensure that the number of U.S. workers continues to grow.

"Once this bicameral, bipartisan working group reaches agreement on that long-term policy, then we can introduce legislation.

"The governor's office, of course, will also be invited to participate," Sablan added. "And we will continue to consult with the White House and USCIS."

Sablan thanked acting Homeland Security secretary Elaine Duke and acting U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director James McCament, and their staff, for moving quickly to implement his new law. The agency posted guidance on its website yesterday at https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/cw-1-cnmi-only-transitional-worker/cnmi-only-transitional-worker-cw-1-cap

Individuals with questions about their specific case or other questions about the CW-1 program are encouraged to make an appointment at the USCIS Application Service Center on Saipan. ***(PR)***

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House OKs Senate bill that provides work experience to fresh graduates

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed last week a Senate bill that would provide experience to graduates striving for a civil service position.

Senate Bill 20-09 SD1 gives associate degree holders and bachelor's degree holders two and four years work experience, respectively, just by graduating.

» Bill heads to governor for signing

The bill passed the House unanimously with no discussions.

Sen. Just Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) said the legislation "will provide more opportunities to our college graduates who are seeking employment [for] civil service positions."

According to Quitugua, some college graduates fail to meet employment requirements "due to lack of work experience." The civil service policy is a "hindrance to encouraging…college students to return to the CNMI" for jobs.

SB 20-09 SD1 states that certain statutes of the Civil Service Act discourage fresh graduates with a degree or certification in the CNMI to contribute their skills and knowledge in the CNMI.

Public Law 15-119 requires civil service employees to have prior experience if the person possesses a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree.

"Such policy is in contradiction to the CNMI Scholarship and municipal financial assistance policies where students that are granted financial assistance while in college must return and work in the CNMI," said Quitugua. "The CNMI government spends millions of dollars annually sending our students to college."

According to Quitugua, the intent of the bill is to encourage the local workforce for having attained a degree by crediting degree holders with the necessary work experience to allow them to meet the civil service requirement.

The bill now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for signing.

2 suspected burglars arrested

Police officers assigned at a Garapan substation responded to a report of a burglary-in-progress at a car rental company and caught two men who stole three drilling tools and ran into a bushy area near the establishment yesterday morning.

A source said the burglary happened at a car rental company behind the fire station in Garapan at about 5am.

Saipan Tribune confirmed with the owner of Micronesia Rent-a-Car that their storage room had been burglarized and three drilling tools worth $700 in all were stolen.

The owner commended the police officers for immediately arresting the suspects and recovering the tools.

As of 3pm yesterday, there was no bail hearing yet at the Superior Court for the two suspects.

Saipan Tribune opted to withhold the suspects' name until they are taken to court.

The source said the company's surveillance video caught one suspect running out from the establishment carrying the stolen power tools.

The Micronesia Rent-a-Car owner said he was sleeping inside his room in the establishment when the burglary happened. When he went outside, he noticed that the storage door's room was open. He then found that someone had just entered the storage room as the air-conditioner from the outside of the storage room was pushed in to gain entry into the room.

The owner then called the police. Police officers from a nearby *koban*, or substation, responded to the scene and arrested two men hiding in the bush at an abandoned building just across the Micronesia Rent-a-Car.

Last year, a bicycle was stolen from the same company.

Security to be tightened at Koblerville youth center

By KIMBEERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Still reeling from a vandalism incident earlier this month, the Koblerville Community Center will be improving its security system to deter new attacks.

Over a week ago, vandals who have yet to be identified by the police broke a window of the center, prompting the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to close it down for repairs.

Shelane Borja, special assistant for the Division of Youth Affairs, said that security measures are being tightened at the center to ensure that the center wouldn't be vandalized again.

According to Borja, she has

See SECURITY on Next Page

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JUDGE

From Page 1

tion is an appropriate deterrent against prosecutorial harassment and lack of diligence.

The judge reiterated an earlier statement that a tremendous amount of resources have been expended in the prosecution of the case against retired Army reservist Michael Barry Murphy, including thousands of wasted taxpayer dollars and resources of overburdened law enforcement agencies and judiciary.

Weintraub cried.

After Kim-Tenorio left the courtroom, assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr. hugged Weintraub, who was still crying in her seat.

Chief Prosecutor Michele Harris and assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio were also among those who embraced her.

Weintraub refused to speak to the media.

Kim-Tenorio announced her ruling after hearing Weintraub's and Harris' statement. She said she will issue a written order.

As Kim-Tenorio was explaining her sanction order, Weintraub asked that she be allowed time to look at the issues that the judge raised at the hearing and allow her to present arguments.

Weintraub said the judge cited other issues, which were not included in her order to show cause.

Kim-Tenorio stated that Weintraub's objection is noted and that the prosecutor is welcome to appeal her decision.

Kim-Tenorio then proceeded to announce her decision by reading a written note.

On the competency and lack of diligence issues, the judge cited instances when Weintraub failed to file responses on time, prolonging the case.

The judge said that Weintraub's dropping and re-filing this and another case were questionable.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, as counsel for Weintraub, argued that the Office of the Attorney General and Weintraub take sex abuse cases seriously.

Kim-Tenorio said that a number of Weintraub's responses to the case were filed untimely. She cited instances when the prosecutor was late in filing responses and, in one matter, did not reply at all.

Weintraub explained some of her late responses and apologized. She, however, objected that she was not prepared for the issues cited by the judge. She said she's prepared for only the issues that Kim-Tenorio raised in her order to show case.

When asked about the due diligence she has done in the Murphy case, Weintraub explained that she has been keeping in touch with the victim's mother regularly, talking with a detective, communicating with the defense counsel, among others.

Kim-Tenorio asked if it's fine for Weintraub to dismiss the case because she did not meet the deadline. Weintraub said it's not the case. The judge pointed out that she was given many extensions.

In explaining her decision that caused a delay in the case, Weintraub insisted it was a wrong decision on her part and that she had apologized to the court, to the victim, and the victim's family.

"People in our profession make mistakes. I made the wrong decision," said a tearful Weintraub, who paused for a minute to wipe away tears.

Weintraub insisted that she takes her responsibility as a prosecutor seriously. She asked Kim-Tenorio to accept her apology.

Last Aug. 15, Kim-Tenorio granted Weintraub's motion to dismiss without prejudice the charges against the 54-year-old Murphy. That means the government can re-file the case in the future.

The OAG's motion to dismiss cites the inability to present forensic evidence that was not tendered during discovery and a challenge to witness competency.

Attorney Janet H. King, counsel for Murphy, sought to have the case dismissed.

King watched the hearing yesterday.

TOURISM CUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Glen Perez, third from right, sales manager of Atkins Kroll Saipan, presents a 2017 T-Max to the Marianas Visitors Authority/Marianas Tourism Education Council as sponsors of a hole-in-one prize for the second Governor's Tourism Cup, which is scheduled for Sept. 2, 2017.

THREAT

From Page 1

gion was detected. The launch, however, has been determined to not be a threat to the Marianas.

"We are confident in the capabilities of our Department of Defense members and assure the CNMI that we are closely monitoring any activity stemming from North Korea," said CNMI HSEM special assistant Gerald J. Deleon Guerrero.

Additionally, the Guam Office of Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense, together with the government of Guam leadership, are aware of the missile launch, and are advising there is no change in threat level to the Marianas.

There is no confirmed report at this time indicating the launch was considered successful.

The CNMI HSEM encourages the community to report any sightings of social media posts relating to the current regional events to local law enforcement or reach the EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management also encourages the public to remain close to updates provided by local news and media, and by visiting its social media webpage outlets on Facebook: @cnmieocswp; Instagram: @cnmihsem; Twitter: @cnmihsem; or website: www.cnmihsem.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

IPI

From Page 1

the extent of the information she could share.

According to Teregeyo, though, the deposit was made in late 2016.

"It is true that they [IPI] are requesting [for the deposit back] and at this point, I have not released it yet," said Teregeyo.

Saipan Tribune learned that the money was a good-faith advance from IPI to DPL for the lease of the Garapan property where the Imperial Pacific Casino & Resort now sits.

"[IPI] deposited an additional $10 million on DPL and IPI's agreement. [The money was] deposited because IPI requested additional things from DPL and in order to assume that risk, we required that IPI ups that deposit," said Teregeyo, declining to provide specifics without the department's lawyer advising her.

Teregeyo added that she has received letters from IPI and a letter from the DPL legal counsel and is now "processing it."

The secretary clarified that deposits are not income for DPL. She said that deposits are remitted after an audit at the end of every fiscal year to determine the surplus that would be remitted to the Marianas Public Lands Trust fund.

"We hold [deposits] in a deposit account with the bank," said Teregeyo. "At the end of next year, the $10 million does not go to MPLT. It's not income—it's [a] deposit," she said, adding that IPI would obtain their $10 million deposit when they satisfy or close a term of a lease.

According to Teregeyo, deposits are being held for "all the lease-holds here, and those are not income."

CCC is aware

The Commonwealth Casino Commission told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview that they are aware that IPI was requesting DPL to return their $10 million deposit.

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said, though, that the commission does not have the details. He also specified yesterday that IPI's agreement with DPL was not part of their regulations, however the department may contact CCC to "assist in enforcement" if "IPI violates policy."

"We [keep] IPI in full compliance with federal and local regulations," said Deleon Guerrero.

WOMAN

From Page 1

turing to exposed reef lines and beaches, especially along west-facing shores, as rip currents were life threatening.

Torres also advised those operating smaller boats to avoid sailing.

A source disclosed that the 34-year-old Korean woman was last seen swimming at Obyan Beach at 4:30pm.

Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Unit personnel then launched a search to locate the victim.

Another source confirmed that the body was recovered and that it's a drowning case.

As of press time, DPS had yet to release information about the incident. Investigation is ongoing.

The Korean woman is reportedly the fifth ocean/beach drowning victim this year.

The last drowning incident happened last July 16 when a 26-year-old man who went fishing with a companion was later found dead and is believed to have drowned in the ocean near the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

As of 7:15pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm Sanvu was located about 325 miles north-northeast of Agrihan, 365 miles north-northeast of Pagan, 570 miles of Saipan, and 695 miles north-northeast of Guam.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, Sanvu was moving toward the north at 13 miles per hour with maximum sustained winds increased to 50mph.

Sanvu is expected to make a turn toward the northwest with little change in forward speed over the next 24 hours. Sanvu is forecast to intensify though today, Wednesday.

NWS said converging monsoon winds south of Sanvu will maintain heavy showers and some thunderstorms through today.

SECURITY

From Page 3

partnered up with different agencies to secure the center. "We're working with partners now to find ways where we can secure the safety of the center," she said.

Police have yet to identify the suspects in the latest vandalism. "The detectives are working on their own process because we're not the only victims of this accident," said Boja.

She remains unsure as to when the doors of the center will be open again, but she assured that she and her team are working hard to open the center as soon as possible.

"We are trying our best to open it so that we can start serving the participants that we currently serve," said Borja.

She feels that if the center stays closed for too long, it will only burden the students who use the facility.

"It's hurting them because the services have to stop and, especially now that the schools have opened, this is a safe place for them to come to and do their homework," said Borja.

She said the main goal is to secure the center.

According to Borja, she has been working with partners to further improve the center's security by installing shutters, installing a CCTV system, and upgrading the center's alarm system.

Borja explained that the system currently installed at the center could only detect breathing and living objects within. It did not go off when a rock was thrown into the center through the window. Borja plans to upgrade the current system.

Borja hopes the advancements will give her office and the center the capability to monitor everything that goes on, both inside and outside of the center.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL closed today

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will resume normal hours on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017. It will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, and Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017. ***(PR)***

WCC chief to speak at SHRM meeting

Francisco Diaz Cabrera, director of the CNMI Office of the Workers' Compensation Commission, will be the main speaker at the Aug. 31, 2017, meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter. This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. The presentation is open to the public. Cabrera will provide an opportunity for questions. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. ***(SHRM)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 30, from 6 am to 3pm. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Class of 1987 gears up for 30th-year reunion

The Marianas High School Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Free cat adoption month

Saipan's animal welfare group, Saipan Cares for Animals, is hosting a free cat adoption month until the end of August. All cat and kitten adoptions are free until the end of the month on Aug. 31. Call Beth at 285-5448 or visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com to find out more. ***(CSA)***

Ukulele class at public library

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library intermediate ukulele classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017. It is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is $50. For questions, call Celina Foreman at 235-7315 / 7322 during regular library hours. ***(PR)***

Sobriety checkpoints this week

The Highway Patrol Section of the Department of Public Safety will be setting up sobriety checkpoints on Saipan this week.

Today, Aug. 30, the first setup from 7:30pm to 9:30pm will cover the area from Beach Road Garapan to San Antonio. The second setup from 10:30pm to 12:30am will cover the highway from Chalan Pale Arnold in Puerto Rico to Chalan Laulau.

On Sept. 2, the first setup from 6:30pm to 8:20pm will cover the area from Chalan Pale Arnold in Garapan to Chalan Laulau. A second setup from 9:30pm to 11:30pm will cover the area from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in San Jose to Dandan.

Rota DPS will also be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this week.

Tomorrow, Aug. 31, the first setup from 7pm to 8:15pm will be along the San Francisco Highway Lotgan area. The second setup from 11pm to 12:15am will be along the San Francisco highway Tatgua area.

On Sept. 1, the first setup from 7pm to 8:15pm will be along San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3. The second setup from 11pm to 12:15am will be along San Francisco Highway by the Pinatang Park.

Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (one hour and 15 minutes). ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Ex-security officer gets 5 years for sex abuse

A 20-year-old former security officer was slapped yesterday with a five-year prison term for sexually abusing a minor on Saipan.

Christopher Ada Chlarson Jr. pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced Chlarson to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for five years, with credit for time served. After serving his sentence, Chlarson will be placed on 10 years of probation.

He was required to register as a sex offender, submit to an examination by the Community Guidance Center, undergo any recommended treatment, and pay restitution to the victim in an amount to be determined at a hearing.

Chlarson will be required to submit to blood/urine testing. He is prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages and using controlled substances during his probation.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio stated that Chlarson sexually abused the girl using his finger in March 2017.

Chlarson told the court that he touched the girl's privates.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as counsel for Chlarson.

According to court records, a police officer responded to a school in May after the principal reported a sexual abuse of a minor case.

A teacher talked to a 15-year-old girl after she wrote in a journal that someone has been traumatizing her. The student confessed that Chlarson sexually touched her twice while she was sleeping at home in March 2017.

Chlarson was a security officer at Best Sunshine when he was arrested last May. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Koblerville basketball court freshened anew

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Koblervillle basketball court was spruced up again and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held Monday to turn over the responsibility of its upkeep to the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog turned the court over to Parks and Recreation director Eli Cabrera, who said the basketball court has been renovated quite a few times in the past couple of years.

Cabrera said that all he asks for is for those who use the court to take care of it.

"I just hope that our community understands the importance of the area and maintaining, and keeping it usable," said Cabrera.

His biggest concern is the several instances of vandalism. This time around, Cabrera hopes that the court will remain usable for a longer period of time.

"If we come back in one month, hopefully the rims are still there and the nets of the basketball rims, and I hope there is no graffiti," said Cabrera. "Our people should report any wrongdoing, please report it to the proper authorities."

According to Cabrera, the efforts made to maintain the court is pointless if those who use it don't maintain it as well.

"It's useless for us to keep maintaining, when on the other side, there is vandalism going on," said Cabrera.

Rev. Fr. Isaac Ayuyu offers a prayer and blesses the newly renovated Koblerville basketball court during the court's grand unveiling on Monday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The proposal to renovate the basketball court again was led by Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) in the middle of last year, in the wake of a plea of a constituent. Upon visiting it, Guerrero said he was disheartened to see the state of the area.

"When I came out here, it was littered with syringes and ziplock bags. They used it [basketball court] as a drug facility," he said.

Instead of seeking government funding to initiate the renovations, Guerrero decided it was best to reach out to community investors because, according to him, it could take a year just to obtain government appropriation.

According to Guerrero, the companies he reached out to are advocates of giving back to the community such as IT&E, IP&E, and E-Land Group. After three months, the companies informed him that they were interested in supporting the cause.

The improved court includes new nets, new rims, a new paint job, new bleachers, and a new fence.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-026

TUTURAM ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Tuturam Road and Drainage Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 16, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 1, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 15, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-026"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time September 20, 2017.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, September 20, 2017,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 20, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 29, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, October 4, 2017.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on September 20, 2017.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-027

ROOF REPLACEMENT AT DRUM STORAGE AREA POWER PLANT NO. 1 SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of roofing material at the Drum Storage Berm, Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the removal of corroded roofing and its replacement with new material. Electrical work for installation of lighting and power outlets at the berm is also requested for this task.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-027 Roof Replacement Drum Storage Area Power Plant No. 1 Saipan"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 29, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

‘Local culture could draw back Japanese tourists’

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

Japan’s consul to Saipan believes the lack of a strong emphasis on the CNMI’s culture is why Japanese arrivals, which used to be the No. 1 tourist market of the Commonwealth, are dwindling.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Japanese Consul Kinji Shinoda said that, as a tourist who has visited many places around the world, the CNMI could re-attract Japanese tourists if the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture is further advertised.

“As a Japanese tourist who has visited many places, I go to places to see the culture, try the cuisines,” he said.

According to Shinoda, upon arriving on the island, he has seen Chinese restaurants, Japanese restaurants, Filipino restaurants, but he has yet to find an authentic restaurant that specializes in Chamorro and Carolinian food.

Shinoda said the islands are beautiful and their beauty will surely attract many tourists but Japanese tourists like him don’t just want scenery, they visit different places for the cultural experience and to bring back authentic souvenirs.

Shinoda also cited the lack of authentic local souvenirs. He said Japanese tourists love to bring back trinkets from their trip that represents the places that they have visited.

Unfortunately, upon visiting the numerous souvenir stores here, he was saddened to see that he could only find basic souvenir items like shirts, sandals, etc. Even the chocolates that are available for purchase in these stores are from Hawaii, not the CNMI.

Shinoda said he encourages the islands to let the rich indigenous culture shine and for the islands to sell the culture along with the scenery.

Shinoda has shared his opinions with other local officials and, according to him, they fully support his suggestions.

Shinoda suggests that indigenous dances, songs, and cuisines should be revitalized on the islands because culture is what Japanese tourists come for.

Because Japanese tourists usually travel with their families, he strongly feels that cultural family activities should also be revitalized.

The numbers of Japanese tourists continue to decrease and, in Shinoda’s opinion, focusing on the local culture is one way to bring those numbers back up.

Arrivals from Japan totaled 3,385 visitors in July 2017, 19 percent lower compared to July 2016.

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7D197 BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF $4,000 $24,995
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7H216 BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD Y WHEELS $3,000 $22,995
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7M014 WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS $5,000 $19,995
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7M024 BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
7M026 WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
7M027 RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
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7M030 SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
7M031 GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
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7M032 SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
7M033 BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
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Int'l Festival of Cultures on Sept. 2 cancelled

Due to inclement weather in the forecast, the International Festival of Cultures will be cancelled on Sept. 2, 2017.

The festival will open on Sept. 9, 2017, and will be held every Saturday evening in September from 5pm to 9pm at Garapan Fishing Base, featuring live entertainment, food sales, hands-on demonstrations, games, and more. For more information, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at 664-3210 or on Facebook. ***(PR)***

AGUIJAN RESCUE U.S. NAVY/NAVAL AIRCREWMAN 1ST CLASS JOHN MCCRACKEN

Medical technician naval aircrewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class Mike Magee and hospital corpsman 2nd Class Alex Nguyen of Helicopter Sea Squadron 25 stand with five members of a rescued hunting party on Tinian. The hunting party was stranded on the island of Aguijan, about 85 miles north of Guam, when the boat scheduled to pick them up was unable to return due to rough seas. With the hunting party's food and water running low, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam called HSC 25 for the search and rescue mission. The mission was the 40th emergency call to HSC-25 in CNMI and marks 30 lives saved during search and rescue and medical evacuations in 2017.

See story on page 14

Heavy showers, thunderstorms today

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, converging monsoon winds south of Tropical Storm Sanvu will maintain heavy showers and some thunderstorms through today, Wednesday, on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Waves and surf along west facing reefs will remain hazardous at 8 to 10 feet. Surf will remain at hazardous levels until this afternoon. There is also a high risk of rip currents along west facing reefs.

Winds of 25 to 35 mph with gusts of up to 45 mph near showers will persist through Wednesday morning.

If you are planning any outdoor activities today, be alert for hazardous weather and aware of current conditions and be prepared to move indoors.

Mariners operating small vessels should be prepared for strong winds and seas of 10 to 12 feet. Small craft should remain in port as these conditions will be hazardous for their operation.

Inter-island travel is not recommended until Thursday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are encouraged to avoid sailing in these conditions. Also, avoid venturing out to exposed reef lines and beaches, especially along west facing shores as rip currents will be life threatening.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands are being encouraged to stay informed on the latest statements and advisories that will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000 and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(EOC)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
website: www.developcnmi.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS
2014-CDA-12-IFB

CLOSING DATE: Friday, September 22, 2017 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR AIR CONDITION UNITS"

The scope of work may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office located on the 2nd floor of the CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-07

SUBMISSION DATE: September 1st, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SCANNING LAND MAPS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ HON. ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/HR-21

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM
BID OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 TIME: 1:30 PM

"PETITION FOR EMPLOYMENT BASED VISA CLASSIFICATION, HUMAN RESOURCE, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFQ PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Recent survey from the Non-communicable Disease Bureau, CNMI Department of Public Health found that more than 60% of the adults in the CNMI are overweight or obese. Obesity is a major risk factor for hypertension, Type II Diabetes, and some types of cancer.

One of the most effective ways to lose excess weight is through eating fewer calories. This can be achieved by replacing foods without much nutrient value such as chips, soda, cakes, and cookies with fruits and eating more vegetables with meals.

Please, share this message.

The Racial and Ethic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program focuses on increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables through the BIBA Healthy Restaurant Project in order to prevent obesity. When dining out, look for BIBA menu items at participating restaurants: Shirley's Coffee Shop, Caravan of Food, and Everest Kitchen.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Saipan, MP – In observance of CNMI Labor Day Festivities slated for September 01, 2017 and Labor Day Holiday September 04, 2017, the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill facilities will be closed all day on Friday, September 01, 2017 and Monday September 04, 2017. Services will resume on Saturday, September 02, 2017 and on Tuesday, September 05, 2017.

###

/s/ Blas Mafnas
Acting Director, Solid Waste Mgmt. Division
Department of Public Works
Lower Base Transfer Station, Pagu Avenue
Saipan, MP 96950

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 17-008
JANITORIAL SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Housekeeping and Cleaning Services for the As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Tuesday, Aug 30th, 2017 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 2:00 p.m., September 29, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

Kilili: Our hearts go out to Texas

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) called on residents of the Northern Mariana Islands to help the people of Texas whose lives have been upended by unprecedented volumes of rain, widespread flooding, and devastating tornadoes, as Tropical Storm Harvey continues to pummel the Gulf Coast.

Sablan

"Our hearts go out to the more than six million people in southeast Texas who are affected by this catastrophic event," Sablan said.

"Thousands have been evacuated; thousands more still wait for rescue. They are in desperate need of the basics right now—food, clean water, medical and hygiene supplies, diapers, clothing, shelter. And they will need help for the long haul, to recover and rebuild their lives.

"This is a disaster of historic proportions, and I urge the people of the Marianas to open their hearts to the people of Texas and give any measure of help and comfort they can.

"It was not that long ago when we experienced a major natural disaster here in the Marianas, with Typhoon Soudelor. The generous aid and compassion that poured in from around the nation helped us get back on our feet. And the people of Texas will need help getting back on theirs," Sablan said.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, people can support the relief effort in Texas by visiting the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster website, www.nvoad.org, to donate or volunteer with the voluntary or charitable organizations of their choice. Many of these organizations are already on the ground in Texas, assisting disaster survivors. ***(PR)***

Kilili: Another $300,000 for Soudelor cleanup

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that Pacific Coastal Research and Planning is receiving $300,000 in federal funds to remove the *Lady Carolina*, a large, steel abandoned fishing vessel, from the reef outside Saipan harbor.

The ship broke free of its moorings during Typhoon Soudelor, damaging 6,000 square feet of coral habitat, and has remained abandoned in the harbor ever since.

"Congratulations to Pacific Coastal Research and Planning for being one of only 11 applicants nationwide to successfully compete for a community-based marine debris removal grant," Sablan said.

"Out of a total of $1.2 million awarded for all 11 grants, our local Marianas business took a sizeable amount, $250,000."

In addition to the marine debris removal grant, Pacific Coastal Research and Planning is receiving $50,000 from the Coral Reef Conservation Program for the removal project. Both programs are administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

According to NOAA, Pacific Coastal Research and Planning will work with a contractor to remove the derelict vessel to prevent further damage to reef areas. The company will also work with local media to highlight the removal project to the public and share ways to prevent marine debris in the future, such as proper storm preparation. Additionally, the project will involve collaboration with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

"We are so excited to leverage these federal funds in support of the local government's efforts to remove this abandoned vessel from the reef of the Saipan lagoon. Removing the *Lady Carolina* will help prevent additional damage to the surrounding reef and will further help the Saipan community recover after Typhoon Soudelor," said PCRP's co-founder Becky Skeele.

The project is expected to take about two years. ***(PR)***

NAP open this Friday

The Nutrition Assistance Program Office will remain open this Friday, Sept. 1, 2017.

The distribution of NAP benefits and re-certification of eligibility for September 2017 will proceed as originally scheduled, from 8am to 3pm.

On Friday, Sept. 1, 2017, the office will entertain beneficiaries whose assigned letters are letters A, B, and C.

The office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, recognition of Labor Day.

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, the office will entertain beneficiaries from letters D through L.

On Wednesday Sept. 6, 2017, the office will entertain letters M through R.

On Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017, the office will entertain letters S through Z.

Friday, Sept. 8, 2017, will be an open day.

For additional information, contact the NAP Administration Office at 237-2842 or 237-2843. ***(PR)***

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INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMHC IFB 2017-005
(Revised No. 01)
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 • TIME: 10:00 AM

"RENOVATION OF EXISTING TINIAN GYMNASIUM"

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian.

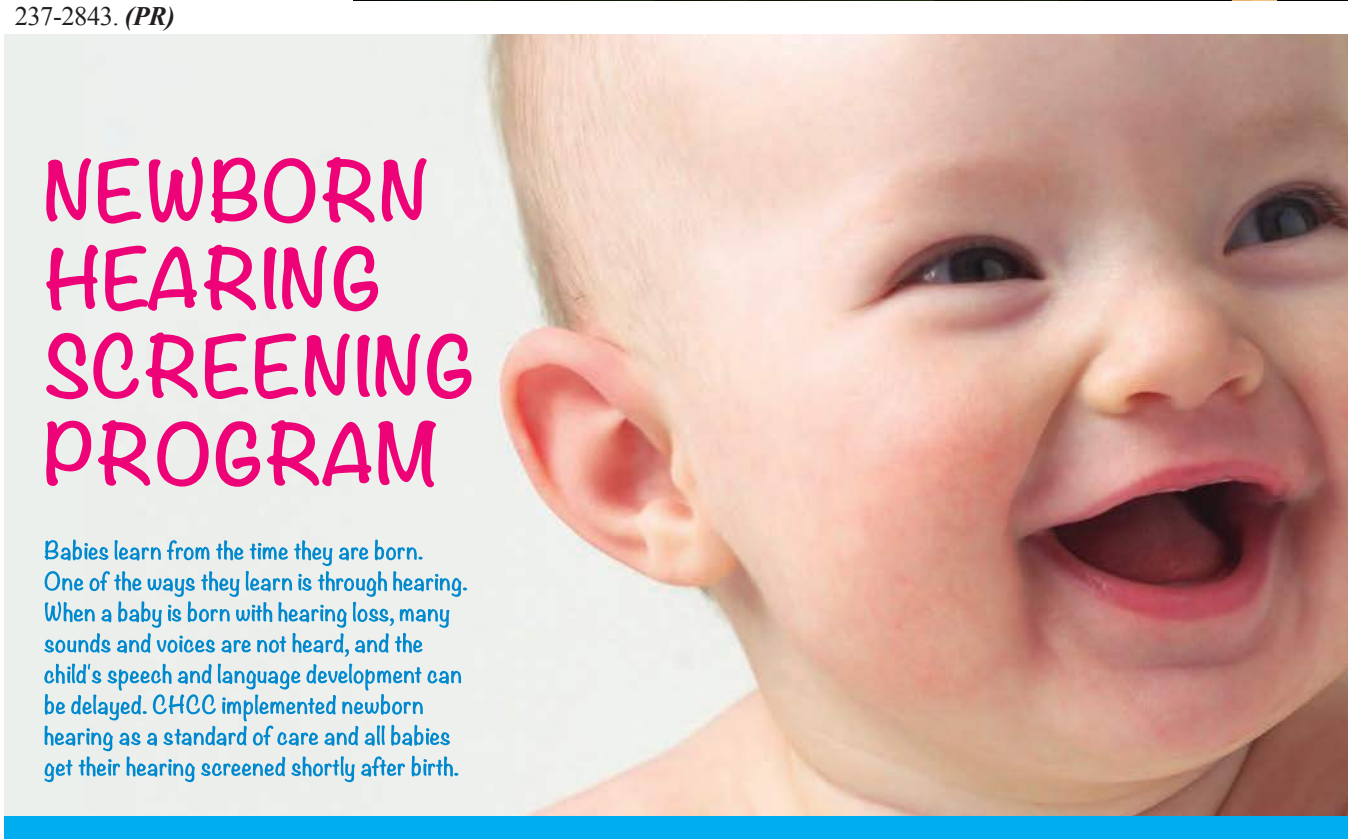
Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, August 28, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Tinian Field Office during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. Project Package set will be allowed and a non-refundable payment is required. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set.** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian Mayors Office Conference Room on **Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 15, 2017.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
NMCH Board Chairman
& Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement
& Supply


NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM
Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.
Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Kids and smartphones: Be proactive, parents

Parents of preteens know the dismay that comes with this image: kids flopped on the couch for stretches of time, silent and mesmerized by smartphones. Maybe it's Snapchat, maybe its Facebook or Instagram—but they scroll and scroll, oblivious to an outside world that beckons with all things tangible and sunny: a pool, a baseball diamond, a bike ride.

The things that lure kids into their own walled-off worlds have evolved over the years: Pac-Man in the '80s, Nintendo in the '90s. Today, it's a smartphone that at times can seem like the Pacific Ocean between you and your children. Recently, a backlash against the trend has burgeoned in the form of Wait Until 8th, a movement that encourages parents to hold off on giving their children smartphones until the eighth grade, when their kids are usually 13 or 14.

Led by a former Chicago resident who now lives in Austin, Texas, the group launched this spring and now has more than 2,000 parents as members, the Tribune's Kate Thayer reports. At least 100 families in Illinois have joined. There's nothing binding in being a member. Parents simply take a pledge to "wait until eighth," adhering to the group's belief that elementary school is too soon for kids to start tapping and scrolling on smartphones.

There's a need for children who haven't reached their teen years to have phones for communication and safety reasons, but the group stresses that major cellular service carriers offer basic packages for calls and texts—without data plans. "Smartphones are distracting, dangerous and detrimental for children, yet are widespread in elementary and middle school because of unrealistic social pressure and expectations to have one," the group's website declares.

OK, we feel your pain, Wait Until 8th. But we think there's a better way to look at this. Kids still bond in playgrounds, school hallways and backyards, but smartphones have changed the way we socialize, and that doesn't just go for grown-ups. Kids now connect digitally, through texts, FaceTime, social media, the list goes on. It's a reality parents can't ignore.

But it's also a reality parents don't have to accept unconditionally. Being a parent means being proactive about everything, and that includes being attentive stewards of their kids' use of smartphones. Keeping them off the dinner table and away from reach at bedtime are sensible ground rules. There are also apps that allow parents to control when their kids can use their phones and what apps are accessible, Thayer writes. Setting boundaries is part of a parent's job description, and that's especially important when it comes to a kid's smartphone use.

It's up to each parent to decide when to buy a smartphone for their child, and how to monitor the device's

See KIDS on Next Page

TRUMP USES HARVEY TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM HIS CHARLOTTESVILLE COMMENTS AND HIS ARPAIO PARDON!!
Just as he used the eclipse to divert the media attention from the Russian COLLUSION!!
TRUMP TO VISIT BATTERED TEXAS GULF COAST!
Schumer
Pelosi
VOTE DEMS! NEW IDEAS!
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How will they vote on Harvey?

By MICHAEL HILTZIK
Los Angeles Times

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at mhiltzik@latimes.com.*

The art of compromise, otherwise known as you-scratch-my-back-I'll-scratch-yours, has all but disappeared from the halls of Congress in recent years. And that may put more than 20 members of the Texas congressional delegation in a bind when relief for the victims of Hurricane Harvey comes up for a vote.

The representatives, and Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and John Cornyn, all voted against a $50.5 billion relief package for victims of 2012's Superstorm Sandy when it came before them in January 2013. (The measure passed anyway.) Although the shape and size of a relief package for victims of Harvey won't emerge for at least several months, it's clear that a big one will be needed. Damage estimates from the storm still pummeling the Gulf Coast around Houston have reached $40 billion, and are likely to rise.

Texas is almost certain to pose a drain on federal emergency resources for the indefinite future. "FEMA is going to be there for years," Brock Long, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Sunday on CNN.

Texas lawmakers haven't yet been asked how they will vote on the inevitable package. But on Friday, even before Harvey's landfall, Cruz and Cornyn sent a letter to President Donald Trump asking him for a major disaster declaration. Trump issued the declaration that evening.

Lawmakers and others from the New York-New Jersey region that sustained the heaviest damage from Sandy, moreover, have signaled that they'll be on hypocrite watch when it comes time to vote on Harvey aid. "1 bad turn doesn't deserve another," Republican Rep. Peter King of New York wrote in a tweet directed at Cruz. In a second tweet he pledged, "I won't abandon Texas the way Ted Cruz did New York."

On Saturday, the *New York Daily News* was quick to underscore the irony in Cruz and Cornyn scurrying to secure emergency assistance for their home state after voting against Sandy relief. "The devastation of Hurricane Harvey has two-faced Texas politicians looking for the same sort of relief funding they flatly opposed five years ago," the newspaper reported.

Of the 24 GOP members of the Texas House delegation in 2013, all but one voted against the Sandy relief package in 2013. The one "yea" vote was Rep. John Culberson, whose district includes Houston. But seven other Houston-area congressmen voted the package down. All 12 Democratic members of the delegation voted in favor of Sandy relief with the exception of Sheila Jackson Lee, who represents central Houston and didn't cast a vote. Three Republicans and two Democrats in office at the time of the vote are no longer serving in Congress.

Most of the lawmakers who commented on the 2013 Sandy appropriation couched their opposition in terms of fiscal responsibility. The issue, they said, was that the Sandy bill had been larded down with non-Sandy and non-emergency spending. "Emergency relief for the families who are suffering from this natural disaster should not be used as a Christmas tree for billions in unrelated spending," Cruz said then.

Others demanded that every dollar spent on Sandy relief be balanced by a dollar cut somewhere else in the federal budget. When Louisiana congressmen who voted against Sandy were tasked with securing relief for victims of Hurricane Matthew, this position elevated the ideology of the balanced budget to an article of faith. Notably, the lawmakers insisting on a one-for-one trade-off against Sandy aid were never specific about where the cuts should come from.

A second ideology undergirding hostility to Sandy aid was climate change denial; virtually every lawmaker who voted against the package had also denied or expressed extreme skepticism about climate change, even though it may well have magnified the impact of the storm on low-lying districts, and may well have contributed to the devastating potency of Hurricane Harvey. Tying climate change to specific weather events is difficult, but climatologists say that among the likely consequences of climate change is an increase in the frequency of Category 4 and 5 storms like Matthew and Harvey.

The biggest factor influencing the Sandy vote, however, may have been the disappearance of bipartisan comity from the halls of Congress. The process may be denigrated as "logrolling," but the idea that every legislator is going to need something from his or her colleagues at one point or another is ingrained in history. When a Mississippi flood displaced 600,000 residents of the Delta in 1927, for instance, Rep. Phil Swing personally led a

See HARVEY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wealth, not just wages, is the way to measure women's equality

By ROBERT REICH and HEATHER MCCULLOCH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

On Aug. 26, we celebrated the day in 1920 that women in the United States finally won the right to vote, a historic victory in the long march toward equal rights. Almost a century later, we still have to address the economic disparities women face in order to achieve full equality.

Today, women play an outsized role in the economy—they make up half the workforce and drive roughly 80 percent of consumer purchases—yet they have limited access to the fruits of their labor. It's well known that women earn 79 cents for every dollar earned by men, but most people don't realize that women own only 32 cents on the dollar compared with men. To get to women's equality, we have to tackle income and wealth inequality.

Measuring wealth is a much more accurate picture of how one is doing financially than measuring wages. Wealth is a balance of assets minus debts. Several factors contribute to the wealth gap facing women. In the workforce, they make less money than men, hurting their ability to save. They're also more likely to work part-time, often because they're caring for family members, which limits their access to employer benefits that help turn income into wealth through 401k or other retirement savings programs. And women often can't access federal and state tax subsidies that encourage savings and investment because of the way the subsidies are structured.

To address these inequities, we need a broad menu of solutions that addresses income and wealth. On the income side, that means pushing for pay equity, affordable childcare and paid family leave. On the wealth side, we can start by tackling two key challenges: retirement savings and tax benefits.

Programs such as Secure Choice, under development in California, will expand women's access to retirement accounts. When Secure Choice goes into effect, workers who currently don't have access to a retirement program through their employer will be able to save by creating a personal account administered by the state.

Another proposal would be to make retirement benefits "portable"—tied to individuals, not employers—so independent contractors, domestic workers and other nontraditional employees can build savings over a lifetime of work.

As policymakers in Washington begin to debate tax reform this fall, they need to take into account how their proposals will affect women. For example, two-thirds of households—many of those led by working women—don't itemize their taxes, which means they can't take advantage of certain deductions. Instead, these households are much more likely to benefit from refundable tax credits. Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit should be key priorities to make the tax code work for women.

These strategies support everyone; but they would particularly benefit low-income women and women of color, who are most affected by the women's wealth gap.

Closing the women's wealth gap gives families the cushion they need to weather a financial crisis and invest in their children and communities. And research shows that greater economic equality also contributes to a strong and growing economy.

The policy changes that can help close the women's wealth gap are within reach and we will all benefit if we even the financial playing field for women.

Robert Reich was secretary of Labor under President Clinton. Heather McCulloch is founder and director of the Closing the Women's Wealth Gap Initiative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In harm's way

The ongoing war of words and threats of full scale war and destruction between Trump and Kim Jong Un of North Korea may blow up at any minute and result in the exchange of conventional and nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles between the two countries and everything else in between.

For now, we're just pawns, innocent bystanders, but we're in harm's way. No one wants to admit to this, but we, the Marianas, is part of the second layer of defense, along with the Philippines and Hawaii. The first layer being Australia, South Korea, Japan, and Alaska. With us in the way, the continental United States might just get enough breathing to survive a limited exchange with another country. In this case and for now, North Korea and perhaps China.

So why should we be concerned? After all, Guam has the THAADs and there's a strong possibility of U.S. warships cruising the waters between us and North Korea. It all boils down to the type of weapons used.

ICBMs require some sort of guidance system, preferably sophisticated and using geo-synchronous satellites. North Korea has been isolated from most of the world and its technologies are as antiquated as they come. That's why they're proposing launching and letting the missile burn its fuel for a predetermined amount of time and hopefully it will hit its target. Hopefully?

When an ICBM is launched, not only will it be going at thousands of miles per hour but it goes into the upper reaches of our atmosphere on its way to its target. Nations with the requisite equipment will be tracking the missile but the actual intercept by an anti-ballistic missile system can only happen as the missile has reached a low enough altitude on its downward flight, unfortunately reducing the probability and the accuracy of an intercept. Worse, THAADs only have a range of around 200 kilometers or about 124 miles. How far away are we from Guam?

On a side note, China has issued a warning to the U.S. that if the U.S. initiates a pre-emptive strike against North Korea, it will defend North Korea. Not exactly a promise of hope.

So, what will it take to ease the tensions and/or resolve this issue once and for all? Well, Japan can start stocking its own weapons using its own military. Don't worry, WWII is stuck in history books not bound for a repeat. WWIII, on the other hand, will destroy most everything on this planet and may wipe out life everywhere. Don't think so? There are approximately XXXX nuclear warheads in the hands of the U.S., Russia, China, North Korea, India, and Pakistan. Each one capable of wreaking unspeakable destruction.

In the meantime, we sit and pray. Should war break out, the CNMI will not know it. Some will catch the news but because the CNMI government has no money to install a warning system to warn its population, it will not matter. Where can we hide? Never mind. But hey, such a warning system can save thousands in the event of a tsunami as well. If anything, the presence of the military's pre-positioning ships off our coast may provide peace of mind to those who worry. Oh well, such is life in this paradise. Peace.

Noel Reyes
via email

It's the people's bill now!

Editor's Note: This letter is being published in two parts due to its length. The fist part was published yesterday.

Last of a two-part letter

Just so senators and readers will know: We can't use alien workers and there is a real labor challenge in the bill that eliminates many locals and will result in our need to recruit U. S. citizens from the mainland while locals lose out. The bill as written will pretty much force many of the present marijuana growers with a record for pot in the CNMI to remain in the "black market" instead of being entrepreneur cultivators in the cannabis industry.

The bill allows for alcohol and pot to be used in the same public establishments, when pot should be only used in non-alcoholic businesses like coffee shops, as we see in Amsterdam where these vices are kept separate.

The child protection section is weak and there is nothing additional for the airport to make sure tourists don't leave the CNMI with pot.

The licensing process literally turns the entire industry over to the private sector, which I know is a big mistake from my research in Colorado and there are no real guaranteed checks and balances on the marijuana being grown and sold in dispensaries.

I could go on with some other minor changes that need to be made but I think senators and readers can see this bill needs to be vetted and we surely have the time to do it before November 2018.

Those who are interested in the bill really need to become "active citizens" on this issue and take ownership of this legislation that you will vote on before it is shoved down our throats like the casino, which is what I see is about to happen.

Write letters to the editor and make calls to your senator to put the bill on review for the entire public to consider before it becomes law and a vote. An initiative will also be "locked into law" and not as easy to change or correct as the casino law that is obviously being overhauled due to its flaws. We can fix the bill now but I need your help to help you! Just because Sixto is a senator that does not make him right and I'm sure many readers and people with common sense would rather listen to the advice of the person who is a retired educator and a nationally recognized scholar and researcher along with being a former board member who was paid to research the marijuana issue by the Senate leadership than to believe a former fireman turned politician. Please don't let this local versus non-local or this "one-heart" thing take center stage that always ends up in the local's favor because this is one thing that needs to be based on and standing on the merits, not a person's origins. I knew in my heart the character of senators, especially Sixto, was going to be tested, so this is really another I told you so. When will voters listen and take real action?

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

KIDS

From Page 10

usage. Every kid, and every family dynamic, is different. "There's no research evidence that getting a phone at too young of an age is bad or good," Yalda Uhls, author of "Media Moms & Digital Dads: A Fact-Not-Fear Approach to Parenting in the Digital Age," told Thayer. What matters is being engaged enough in your kids' use of the phone to know if, when—and how—it becomes a problem.

(c)2017 *Chicago Tribune*

HARVEY

From Page 10

congressional tour of the region. Swing represented California, 1,800 miles away, so what was he up to? Simple, he was preparing the ground for a flood control project for his home district, the Imperial Valley. He sponsored the Delta restoration bill and got his wish—congressional funding for what we know today as Hoover Dam. Both regions reaped decades of benefits.

The breakdown of partisan and regional cooperation has been compounded by the substitution of ideology for foresight. That's a particular danger today, when the possibility—nay, probability—of future devastation from climate change, not to mention other natural occurrences, is staring us in the face. As Rep. Frank LoBiondo, R-N.J., called to GOP holdouts after their 2013 vote against Sandy relief: "Florida, good luck with no more hurricanes. California, congratulations, did you get rid of the Andreas fault? The Mississippi's in a drought. Do you think you're not going to have a flood again? Who are you going to come to when you have these things?"

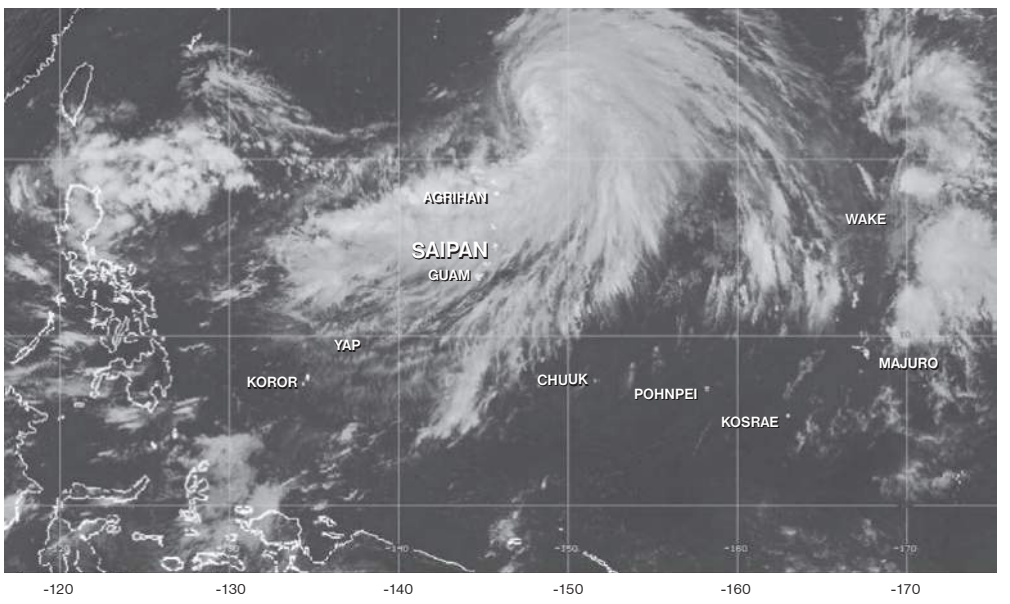
We'll know soon enough. The bills for Harvey will be coming due very, very soon.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:40 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Sanvu north of Agrihan will continue to move northward and away from the local area. A large monsoonal rain band south of Sanvu covers much of the local area. Models show this area gradually decreasing as the tropical storm moves northward. Scattered showers will give way to isolated during the afternoon. Over Guam and Rota expect winds of 15 to 20 mph today. Winds will be a little stronger over Tinian and Saipan with breezy conditions and winds of 20 to 25 mph today. Models keep deep layer moisture high enough to produce isolated thunderstorms through Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
London	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 76°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 41°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°
Osaka	Showers	91° / 79°
Paris	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
Rome	Thunderstorms	86° / 70°
Salem	Cloudy	83° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 59°
Tokyo	Cloudy	79° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:46 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.62
8:20 AM	LOW TIDE	0.32
3:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.45
8:27 PM	LOW TIDE	1.11

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:02 PM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:43 AM	1:15 PM
Friday	-	1:29 AM	2:40 PM
Saturday	-	2:18 AM	3:27 PM
Sunday	-	3:08 AM	4:15 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO424:50pm	12:05am+1		2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Airport ambassadors assist arriving passengers

Saipan airport ambassadors at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport were deployed beginning on Aug. 11, 2017, by the Marianas Visitors Authority to assist arriving passengers during peak periods.

MVA

Saipan airport ambassadors assist arriving passengers at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to during peak periods.

MVA

To improve the arrival experience of passengers at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the Marianas Visitors Authority has introduced and fielded Saipan airport ambassadors to assist passengers through immigration processing and customs inspections.

Launched on Aug. 11, 2017, the program has Saipan airport ambassadors on duty during peak arrival hours from 1am to 5am when thousands of passengers arrive from China, Korea, and other destinations.

The Marianas was recently ranked the third-fastest growing tourist destination in the world, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization World Tourism Barometer. Over the last 10 months the islands have received over half a million visitors.

"Tourism arrivals are growing, and as we work with federal and local partners on ways to quicken immigration and customs processing, we have deployed Saipan airport ambassadors to get passengers through the airport and started on their vacation or business in the Marinas as efficiently as possible," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

Ambassadors will assist passengers with completing immigration and customs forms, guide them to their appropriate immigration line, assist with the use of automated passport control machines, and more. They can be identified by bright yellow polo shirt uniforms.

Marianas Aviation Services, the only aviation services academy on Saipan, has been contracted to provide the services of the program, which is being executed in cooperation with the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Initial project funding was provided via the MVA Korea Ad-Hoc Committee, and CPA will assume administration for the program after six months. ***(MVA)***

From left to right, University of Guam program coordinator Kristina Sayama, UOG senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, UOG associate professor of Health Science Dr. Yvette Paulino, Nicholas Camacho, director of the Office of Minority Health Research Coordination for NIDDK and NIH; Dr. Lawrence Agodoa, Siena Aguon, Janice Lee, Serena Barasi, Pacific STEP-UP program director Dr. George Hui, UOG associate professor of Social Work Dr. Tricia Lizama, and professor of Food Science Dr. Jian Yang.

UOG

UOG professors mentor future research scholars

Sometimes all it takes is a little guidance to spark a new passion.

With the help of a few experts from the University of Guam, local high school students recently walked away from a national summer fellowship with a new fire for science and research.

Incoming freshmen Siena Aguon and Serena Barasi and John F. Kennedy High School seniors Nicholas Camacho and Janice Lee spent two months over the summer engaged in the Short-Term Research Experience for Underrepresented Persons, or STEP-UP, fellowship.

Under the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases offers separate STEP-UP programs to high school and college students. The goal of the programs is to provide an opportunity for these budding scientists from ethnic groups underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research to get their feet wet.

Over the last nine years, professors from the University of Guam have dedicated their time and expertise to guide these young minds, helping them ask the right questions that lead to new discoveries.

"I mentor young, aspiring researchers because I've been there," said Dr. Yvette Paulino, associate professor of Health Sciences. Paulino was one of four UOG professors to mentor the high school students who participated in the program.

"My excellent mentors were those that inspired and challenged me to go the distance, and I've infused some of their best mentoring characteristics into my personal toolkit," she said. "I mentor to pay it forward."

Through these programs, students achieve a head start to college-level research and study. Participating in these programs allows for incoming freshmen to feel more comfortable both in the classroom and laboratory.

"Because of this experience, I feel more confident in my research skills," said Aguon. "Knowing that my mentor is a professor at UOG, I can go back and ask her more questions about how she entered her career and what it's like doing more advanced research."

Giving back to the community is infused within the university's mission. Faculty bring an incredible wealth of knowledge and experiences, particularly as research scholars, that they want to share with their young mentees.

"Our responsibility here at UOG is to leverage the capabilities of our faculty to build a pipeline of capacity for our young scholars," said Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs. "These students bring not only a fresh perspective to these areas of interest but also meaning that creates a broader benefit to the overall community."

Research projects conducted by the students ranged from detailed comparisons between Chamorros and other ethnic groups in terms of end-stage renal disease to introspective studies on the future of traditional Chamorro healing practices.

"My mentee assisted me with research on traditional healing," said associate professor of Social Work Dr. Tricia Lizama. "She got to spend several days a week at the Guam Yo'amte (house of traditional healers). Research can be daunting for many, but I think that is because it can be misunderstood. By mentoring young adults, our faculty can show them that the impact of their research is significant and can change lives."

Barasi and Lee also traveled to Washington, D.C. on Aug. 5 to 10 to present the findings of their projects at the national symposium.

For more information on the high school or the college STEP-UP program, visit the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases website. ***(PR)***

Five stranded hunters rescued from Goat Island

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Five Tinian hunters are home safe after being rescued in a joint effort by the Coast Guard and Navy on Monday.

Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center received notification from the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Homeland Security, at 9am local Guam time, requesting assistance in retrieving the stranded hunters off Goat Island, Tinian.

"This case illustrates the importance of our partnership with the Navy and the value of hoist capable helicopters to conduct missions in our operational area," said senior chief petty officer Michael Guerrero, command duty officer, Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center. "The Coast Guard is always ready to serve and help our communities of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands."

Sector Guam watchstanders coordinated with the U.S. Navy›s Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-25, stationed at Anderson Air Force Base, Yigo, Guam, to conduct the rescue.

A Navy MH-60S helicopter air crew from HSC-25 arrived on scene at 11:45am and safely hoisted all five hunters and transported them to the Tinian airport. No injuries were reported

The five hunters were reportedly dropped off on Goat Island by boat on Aug. 25, and intended staying until Aug. 27. Due to inclement weather and small craft advisory, a small-boat recovery was not possible. ***(USCG)***

UOG welcomes Dr. John Jenson as WERI director

The University of Guam welcomes Dr. John Jenson as the new director of the Water and Environmental Institute of the Western Pacific.

Jenson, who's worked for the university for the last 24 years, focuses his research on island groundwater hydrology and related environmental science.

"In my new role, I'll not only manage the research program but also foster teamwork among the WERI faculty to support WERI's missions of applied research, graduate instruction, and community and university service," he said.

Jenson earned a bachelor degree in Economics from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975. He went on to complete a master's degree in Economics in 1976 from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in Geology from Oregon State University in 1993.

WERI is one of 54 similar water research institutes set up by U.S. congressional legislation at each land grant university in the United States and in several territories.

WERI's current mission under its national charters and local mandates is to consolidate, foster, retain, and make available expert knowledge on local and regional water resources and to seek solutions to problems associated with location, production, distribution, and management of freshwater in Guam, the CNMI, and the FSM.

The Institute provides its regional stakeholders (Guam, CNMI, and FSM) with technical expertise in water resources related fields spanning the entire natural water cycle and spectrum of human water use, including tropical climatology, surface water hydrology, rainfall catchment systems, groundwater modeling and management, water distribution systems, soil erosion and mitigation strategies, watershed management, and various aspects of water quality. ***(UOG)***

'We appreciate all the work IPI has done'

Koblerville Elementary School extended its appreciation to the Corporate Social Responsibility office of Imperial Pacific International Ltd. following a successful "School Pride Project" that helped the school prepare for the opening of the new school year.

"I really appreciate all the work that IPI has done for our school and our community. We really appreciate it and we thank [them] very much," said Koblerville Elementary School principal Jeremaiah Benavente.

This summer, Imperial Pacific's CSR implemented the School Pride Project to help public schools ring in the new school year. Launched in 2016, IPI's School Pride Project is about the maintenance and upkeep of public schools in the Commonwealth, with the focus to primarily assist schools in the repair and restoration of its facilities and cleanup of surroundings.

At Koblerville Elementary School, IPI-CSR partnered with the Division of Parks and Recreation on the grass work around the campus. ***(PR)***

A cleaner and conducive playground area awaits Koblerville Elementary School students.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The before and after photo of the KES soccer field.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MD: 'We appreciate all the work IPI has done'

The sprawling field is also used for outdoor activities. Here an IPI-CSR staff mows the area in preparation for the school year opening.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific International Ltd.-Corporate Social Responsibility staff worked on overgrown grass surrounding the campus.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After receiving a fresh coat paint, the front building of Koblerville Elementary School, below, looks vibrant, when compared to what it was before, photo above.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Most Harvey flood victims uninsured, face big bills alone

AP
A home is surrounded by floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey on Monday, Aug. 28, 2017, in Spring, Texas.

NEW YORK (AP)—Homeowners suffering flood damage from Harvey are more likely to be on the hook for losses than victims of prior storms—a potentially crushing blow to personal finances and neighborhoods along the Gulf Coast.

Insurance experts say only a small fraction of homeowners in Harvey's path of destruction have flood insurance. That means families with flooded basements, soaked furniture and water-damaged walls will have to dig deep into their pockets or take on more debt to fix up their homes. Some may be forced to sell, if they can, and leave their communities.

"All these people taken out in boats, they have a second problem: They have no insurance," said Robert Hunter, director of insurance at the Consumer Federation of America.

Harvey made landfall in Texas late Friday as a Category 4 hurricane and has lingered off the coast, dropping heavy rain as a tropical storm. Hunter expects flood damage alone from the storm to cost at least $35 billion, about what Katrina cost. But in that 2005 hurricane about half of flooded homes were covered by flood insurance.

With Harvey, only two of 10 homeowners have coverage, Hunter estimates.

Homeowners insurance typically covers just damage from winds, not floods. For that, you need separate coverage from the federally run National Flood Insurance Program. The insurance must be bought by homeowners with federally-backed mortgages living in the most vulnerable areas, called Special Flood Hazard Zones.

People in those areas and near them have complained for years that the premiums are too high, though they would be much higher still if not subsidized by the federal government.

Much of the Houston area falls outside those most vulnerable zones and many homeowners who aren't forced to have coverage have decided to do without. Now they are stuck because much of the damage in the nation's fourth largest city won't be covered by their homeowners insurance.

Unlike Corpus Christi and Rockport, much of the Houston area was damaged by flooding, not winds.

"There's going to be a huge uninsured economic loss here," said Pete Mills, a senior vice president at the Mortgage Bankers Association.

About 1.2 million properties in the Houston-Sugarland-Baytown area are at high/moderate risk of flooding but are not in a designated flood zone requiring insurance, research firm CoreLogic estimates. That's roughly half of all properties—residential and commercial—in that area.

Hunter of the CFA said that homeowners without flood insurance can possibly apply for federal disaster relief benefits, but those come in the form of low interest loans, a burden for those already struggling with too much debt.

"If you have $30,000 in damages, you can get maybe $25,000," Hunter said. "But there will be interest, and then you have your mortgage. You'll have two loans on your house."

Homeowners with water damage can get paid through their homeowners insurance but only if wind blows out a window or sends a roof aloft first, allowing the water in. If the water rushes through the floorboard or walls, you're not covered.

Harvey has dumped more than 30 inches of rain in some places, and rivers are swelling and expected to crest at record levels. The Cypress River, which runs through downtown Houston, is expected to rise four feet higher than the record 94.3 feet set in 1949, according to Air Worldwide, a risk modeling firm.

Hunter said that adjusters typically take about 30 days to visit your home and send a check, but the crucial distinction between wind damage and flood damage can be tricky and take longer. Fights in court with insurers over wind-versus-storm damage stretched out for years after Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Sandy resulted in $8.4 billion in payouts for flood damage from the federal insurance program, according to the Insurance Information Institute. After Katrina in 2005, the program paid $16 billion for flood damage.

The flood program is run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which owes the Treasury about $23 billion in funds borrowed to cover the cost of past disasters, according to a recent report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

For homeowners facing big bills, some banks may be willing to help. During a disaster like Harvey, they typically will institute a type of forbearance program on any borrowers who are in the disaster's impacted counties.

Wells Fargo, the nation's largest mortgage lender, said Monday that it was suspending all negative reporting to credit bureaus, collection calls and foreclosure procedures against customers in the impacted communities at least through the end of September.

Customers who contact Wells Fargo can get disaster relief for 60 to 90 days, and can postpone payments. Further relief will be offered case-by-case, the bank said.

Loretta Worters, a spokesperson for the Insurance Information Institute, said floods do have a least one positive effect: They convince people who had shrugged off the risk to their homes to buy policies.

But the memory quickly fades, she added, noting that despite the blows of Katrina and Sandy and other storms only 12 percent of homeowners nationwide had flood insurance last year.

"People buy coverage immediately after a storm, then it starts to drop," Worters said. "Three or four years later, we're back to where we started."

Donating to Harvey relief efforts: How, when, what to give

NEW YORK (AP)—Charities are stepping up their donation requests in the wake of Harvey, a severe, Category 4 hurricane that has devastated South Texas and could still lead to worse flooding in the days ahead.

But this is not an excuse to clean out your closet. Money is the quickest, most effective contribution most people can make during times of disaster, charities and philanthropy experts say. And donating directly through a website gets money to a charity faster than a text donation, even though the text might seem easier.

Here's how to make sure you are giving in a way that matters the most.

GIVE TO ESTABLISHED RELIEF AGENCIES

GuideStar's website has a database that lets you vet charities. You can find information on a charity's expenses, assets and revenue, as well as its programs.

Stacy Palmer, editor of The Chronicle of Philanthropy, also suggests looking at a charity's website for information on how it will use donations. And look through local news reports for information on a charity's work, or contact the local United Way and the local Community Foundation - in this case Houston's.

It's up to you whether to go with a local charity that might know the area better, or a national charity that has wider reach. Palmer says "both kinds of organizations have their place right now."

TEXTING TO GIVE?

It might be tempting to make a donation through text and have the phone company charge it on your phone bill. It's easy, and it might feel as though it's the quickest way to get money to a charity.

But Palmer says that's not the case, as charities have to wait for the phone companies to release the money.

The quickest way to give is to go to the charity's website and donate directly, using a credit or debit card. That said, relief agencies will need money beyond first few days or even weeks, so if the ease of text donations appeals to you, tap away. Apple users in the U.S. can also donate to the American Red Cross through the company's iTunes and app stores. Amounts range from $5 to $200, and you can't use store credit.

TIMING

Donations often pour in immediately after disaster strikes but peter out during the long recovery process. While there are a lot of immediate needs, Palmer says, "charities are going to need support on the long haul."

Consider saving some of your money so you can donate again in a few weeks or months. Better yet, set up a recurring monthly donation to support your chosen charity over time.

Some charities will say when they have raised enough for a particular disaster and use any extra money for their general fund, Palmer says. This isn't bad.

"One of the things this disaster shows is that it's important to have resilience," she says. "It's smart to just give and say that it can be used wherever it's most needed."

CROWDFUNDING

Group fundraising services such as GoFundMe let people raise money for friends, families, neighbors or themselves—as well as for charity. As always, do your homework before giving to a stranger or cause online.

GoFundMe has a special page for Hurricane Harvey pleas for charities, individuals and families. GlobalGiving, a crowdfunding site for charities, is trying to raise $2 million for local relief and recovery efforts.

Remember that donations are tax-deductible only if they go to a registered non-profit or charity. Otherwise, they are generally considered gifts.

HOLD OFF ON MATERIAL DONATIONS

Donating food, clothing and household items can complicate and even hinder relief efforts, experts say. After Superstorm Sandy in 2012, for example, reports cited relief agencies not knowing what to do with the piles of clothing and other unsolicited items pouring in.

The U.S. Center for Disaster Information says such donations "require transportation—which is expensive and logistically complicated—and a pre-identified recipient on the ground who will receive the shipment, pay customs and other fees, sort and distribute the items."

Unsolicited goods, the agency says , are "never required in early stages of response, and they compete with priority relief items for transportation and storage."

It doesn't mean there will never be a time or place for such donations—check with relief agencies as time passes.

CONSIDER SPECIAL NEEDS

Seniors, the disabled, children and even pets are particularly vulnerable during disasters. Consider donating to charities that focus on addressing their needs.

The Texas Diaper Bank, for example, says diapers (whether for babies or adults) are not provided by disaster relief agencies. Again, these charities need money—not boxes of diapers you picked up at Costco.

Nation

More rain, more dead: Harvey floods keeps Houston paralyzed

HOUSTON (AP)—Floodwaters reached the rooflines of single-story homes Monday and people could be heard pleading for help from inside as Harvey poured rain on the Houston area for a fourth consecutive day after a chaotic weekend of rising water and rescues.

The nation's fourth-largest city remained mostly paralyzed by one of the largest downpours in U.S. history. And there was no relief in sight from the storm that spun into Texas as a Category 4 hurricane, then parked over the Gulf Coast. With nearly 2 more feet (61 centimeters) of rain expected on top of the 30-plus inches (76 centimeters) in some places, authorities worried that the worst might be yet to come.

Harvey has been blamed for at least three confirmed deaths, including a woman killed Monday in the town of Porter, northeast of Houston, when a large oak tree dislodged by heavy rains toppled onto her trailer home.

A Houston woman also said she presumes six members of a family, including four of her grandchildren, died after their van sank into Greens Bayou in East Houston.

Virginia Saldivar told The Associated Press her brother-in-law was driving the van Sunday when a strong current took the vehicle over a bridge and into the bayou. The driver was able to get out and urged the children to escape through the back door, Saldivar said, but they could not.

"I'm just hoping we find the bodies," Saldivar said.

Houston emergency officials couldn't confirm the deaths. But Police Chief Art Acevedo said he's "really worried about how many bodies we're going to find" amid the disaster, which unfolded on an epic scale in one of America's most sprawling metropolitan centers.

AP

People and rescue boats line a street at the east Sam Houston Tollway as rescues continue from flooding following Tropical Storm Harvey.

The Houston metro area covers about 10,000 square miles, an area slightly bigger than New Jersey. It's criss-crossed by about 1,700 miles of channels, creeks and bayous that drain into the Gulf of Mexico, about 50 miles to the southeast from downtown.

The storm is generating an amount of rain that would normally be seen only once in more than 1,000 years, said Edmond Russo, a deputy district engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, which was concerned that floodwater would spill around a pair of 70-year-old reservoir dams that protect downtown Houston.

The flooding was so widespread that the levels of city waterways have equaled or surpassed those of Tropical Storm Allison from 2001, and no major highway has been spared some overflow.

The city's normally bustling business district was virtually deserted Monday, with emergency vehicles making up most of the traffic.

'Need help': Harvey victims use social media when 911 fails

By AMANDA LEE MYERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Desperate for help and unsure whether traditional rescue efforts will come through, Harvey victims are using social media to share maps of their location and photos of themselves trapped on rooftops and inside buildings.

"Need help in NE Houston! Baby here and sick elderly!" one user posted on Twitter along with her address late Sunday.

Another woman, Alondra Molina, posted Monday on Facebook that her sister was desperate for a rescue for herself and her four children, including a 1-year-old.

"Please if someone could at least get them out of the city me and my mom will come get them," Molina wrote on a Facebook group where dozens were pleading for help. "The roads are just all blocked and we can't get in."

Annette Fuller took a video when she began fearing for her life on Sunday. She was on the second floor of a neighbor's home along with the residents of three other houses, including five children, as water rose and hit waist level on the first floor.

"We called 911 and it rang and rang and rang and rang," Fuller said Monday after the water receded and she managed to return safely to her single-story home.

"There's just no agency in the world that could handle Harvey," she said. "However, none of us were warned that 911 might not work. It was very frightening."

Fuller's two daughters, who live in Austin and Dallas, posted her video to Facebook after their mother texted it to them, and the post went viral.

"Social media, in some ways, is more powerful than the government agencies," Fuller said.

A nursing home in Dickinson, a low-lying city 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of Houston, quickly became the face of the crisis after its owner took a photo of residents, some in wheelchairs, up to their chests in water.

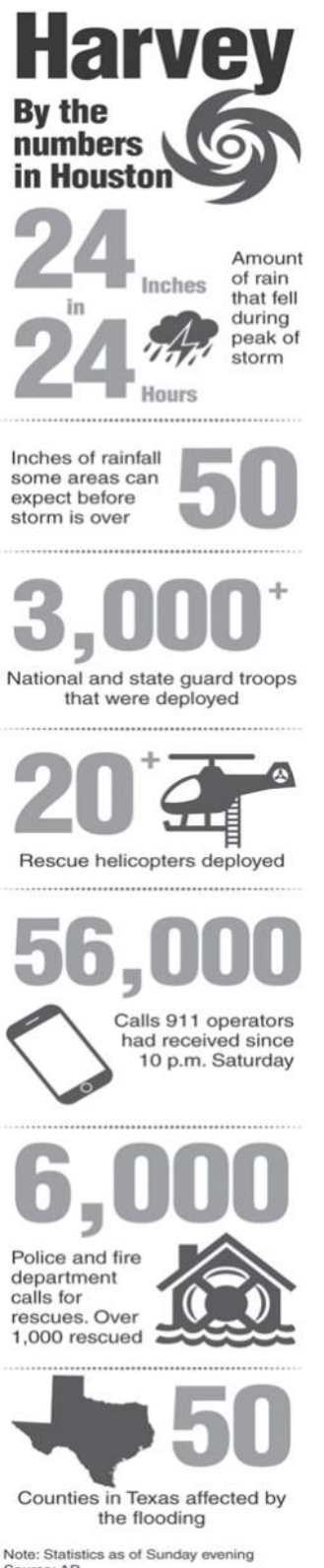
The nursing home owner, Trudy Lampson, sent the photo to her daughter, whose husband posted it Sunday to Twitter, where it's been retweeted about 4,500 times.

The photo was so dramatic that many users denounced it as fake. The nursing home residents were saved the same day.

"Thanks to all the true believers that re-tweeted and got the news organizations involved," Lampson's son-in-law, Timothy McIntosh, posted later in the day. "It pushed La Vita Bella to #1 on the priority list."

McIntosh told The Associated Press on Monday that his post gained traction after a local newspaper reported it.

"We are in Tampa, Florida," he said. "The only way we could have an impact was by trying to reach out to emergency services and trying to do social media to gain attention to the cause."


Harvey
By the numbers in Houston
24 Inches in 24 Hours
Amount of rain that fell during peak of storm
Inches of rainfall some areas can expect before storm is over
50
3,000+
National and state guard troops that were deployed
20+
Rescue helicopters deployed
56,000
Calls 911 operators had received since 10 p.m. Saturday
6,000
Police and fire department calls for rescues. Over 1,000 rescued
50
Counties in Texas affected by the flooding
Note: Statistics as of Sunday evening
Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

ACLU sues Trump over transgender military ban

By RANDALL CHASE and GENE JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Transgender soldiers, sailors, airmen and other members of the military, along with others who want to enlist, sued President Donald Trump on Monday, hoping the federal courts will stop him from preventing their service.

One federal lawsuit was filed in Baltimore by the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland on behalf of six transgender individuals currently serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, National Guard and Naval Reserve.

Another was filed in Seattle by Lambda Legal, on behalf of a 12-year Army veteran and two young transgender men who hope to enlist, along with Human Rights Campaign and the Gender Justice League.

"I thought the Army would make a man of me," joked Army Staff Sgt. Cathrine Schmid, 33, who is stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington, and is a plaintiff in the Seattle case. "We see how effective that was."

Schmid, who has served in South Korea, Germany and Iraq, claims that Trump's ban on transgender people joining the military has halted her appointment as a warrant officer.

"President Trump's actions immediately caused the individual plaintiffs and other transgender service members to fear for their careers, the well-being of their family members and dependents, their health care and, in some cases, their safety," the ACLU lawsuit states.

Trump directed the Pentagon on Friday to implement a ban on transgender individuals from enlisting in or continuing to serve in the military, which he first announced in a tweet.

The ban, which would take effect next year, also orders a halt to the use of Defense Department resources to fund sex-reassignment surgeries for military personnel, except if needed to protect the health of an individual who already has begun a course of sex-reassignment treatment.

"Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail," Trump tweeted.

The ACLU plaintiffs, who claim they face immediate and irreparable harm, are asking the court to declare the ban invalid as an unconstitutional violation of their rights to equal treatment and due process.

White House officials said Monday that they do not comment on pending litigation.

Two weeks after Trump initially announced the ban, GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) and the National Center for Lesbian Rights sued in Washington, D.C., on behalf of five transgender service members with nearly 60 years of combined military service.

Jennifer Levi, director of GLAD's Transgender Rights Project, said Monday that Trump's policy is a "slap in the face to service members who have devoted their lives to protecting the country."

Asia

N. Korea fires missile over Japan in aggressive test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired a ballistic missile from its capital Pyongyang that flew over Japan before plunging into the northern Pacific Ocean, officials said Tuesday, an aggressive test-flight over the territory of a close U.S. ally that sends a clear message of defiance as Washington and Seoul conduct war games nearby.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile traveled around 2,700 kilometers (1,677 miles) and reached a maximum height of 550 kilometers (341 miles) as it flew over the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. The launch appeared to be the first of a North Korean missile to cross over Japan, though some rockets it said were used to put satellites into space have done so. It also appeared to be the North's longest-ever missile test, but South Korean officials couldn't immediately confirm.

Each new test puts the North a step closer toward its goal of an arsenal of nuclear missiles that can reliably target the United States. The North has launched at an unusually fast pace this year, and some analysts believe the North could have viable long-range nuclear missiles before the end of President Donald Trump's first term in early 2021.

The South Korean military said it is analyzing the launch with the United States and has strengthened its monitoring and preparation in case of further actions from North Korea. Analysts speculate the North may have tested a new intermediate-range missile that Pyongyang recently threatened to fire toward the U.S. territory of Guam, which hosts a major military base. This missile landed nowhere near Guam, which is about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) south of Tokyo, but the length of its flight path may have been designed for the North to show it could follow through on its threat. Seoul says the missile was launched from Sunan, which is where Pyongyang's international airport is, opening the possibility that North Korea launched a road-mobile missile from an airport runway.

It was North Korea's 13th launch of ballistic missiles this year, said Roh Jae-cheon, spokesman of Seoul's JCS. The JCS said it was the first time North Korea fired a ballistic missile from Sunan.

AP
People walk by a TV news program reporting North Korea's missile launch, in Tokyo, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017.

North Korea will no doubt be watching the world's reaction to see if it can use Tuesday's flight over Japan as a precedent for future launches. Japanese officials said there was no damage to ships or anything else reported. Japan's NHK TV said the missile separated into three parts. "We will do our utmost to protect people's lives," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters. "This reckless act of launching a missile that flies over our country is an unprecedented, serious and important threat."

Tuesday's launch comes days after the North fired what was assessed as three short-range ballistic missiles into the sea and a month after its second flight test of an intercontinental ballistic missile, which analysts say could reach deep into the U.S. mainland when perfected.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry warned that the North will face a "strong response" from the U.S.-South Korean alliance if what it called nuclear and missile provocations continue. The ministry also urged Pyongyang to accept talks over its nuclear program and acknowledge that abandoning its nuclear ambitions is the only way to guarantee its security and economic development.

In a rare move, South Korea's military released footage of its own missile tests it says were conducted last week. The videos showed two types of new missiles with ranges of 800 kilometers (497 miles) and 500 kilometers (310 miles) being fired from truck-mounted launchers during three tests conducted on Aug. 24.

South Korea's Agency for Defense Development said the launches represented the last flight test for the longer-range missile before it is operationally deployed. Such missiles, which would be latest additions to South Korea's Hyumoo family of missiles, are considered key components to the so-called "kill chain" preemptive strike capability the South is pursuing to cope with the North's growing nuclear and missile threat.

South Korea also said its air force also conducted a live-fire drill involving four F-15 fighters dropping eight MK-84 bombs that accurately hit targets at a military field near the country's eastern coast. Park Su-hyun, spokesman of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, said the exercise was conducted after Moon directed the military to "display a strong capability to punish" the North.

Park said Moon's national security director Chung Eui-yong and Seoul's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa called Trump's national security adviser H.R. McMaster and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, respectively, to discuss the launch.

Former loyalists lose faith in Myanmar's democracy icon

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—As Aung San Suu Kyi launched a national struggle against decades of harsh military rule, one medical student worked tirelessly at her side, facing down gun-wielding soldiers trying to crush the surging pro-democracy movement. For her activism and loyalty, Ma Thida suffered six years of mostly solitary imprisonment and nearly died of illnesses.

Now a medical doctor, novelist and recipient of international human rights awards, Ma Thida has few kind words for the former mentor she once called "my sister who always remained in my heart."

The criticism by Ma Thida and other formerly ardent supporters is manifold: they accuse Suu Kyi of ignoring state violence against ethnic minorities and Muslims, continuing to jail journalists and activists, cowing to Myanmar's still-powerful generals, and failing to nurture democratic leaders who could step in when she, now 72, exits the scene. Instead, they say her government is creating a power vacuum that could be filled again by the military.

Some conclude that Suu Kyi, who espoused democracy with such passion, always possessed an authoritarian streak which only emerged once she gained power.

"We can't expect her to change the whole country in one-and-a-half years, but we expect a strong human rights-based approach," Ma Thida says of the Nobel Peace Prize winner once hailed as "Myanmar's Joan of Arc" and spoken of in the same breath as South Africa's Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi of India.

International criticism has focused on Suu Kyi's lack of action or condemnation of violence targeting the country's approximately 1 million Rohingya Muslims, who have been brutalized since 2012 by security forces and zealots among the Buddhist majority in western Myanmar.

More than 1,000 Rohingya have been killed, while some 320,000 are living in squalid camps in Myanmar and neighboring Bangladesh, according to estimates by the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch and the United Nations. Thousands more embarked on perilous sea voyages to other Southeast Asian countries.

After a new wave of violence and humanitarian crisis erupted last week, with ethnic Rohingya militants attacking police posts and leaving 12 security personnel and 77 Rohingya Muslims dead, her office said military and border police had launched "clearance operations." She herself condemned the militants for what she called "a calculated attempt to undermine the efforts of those seeking to build peace and harmony in Rakhine state."

As usual, she did not address the insurgents' counter-allegations - that the attacks were aimed at protecting Rohingya villagers from "intensified atrocities" perpetrated by "brutal soldiers."

"The violence against the Rohingya is not an isolated event," says Stella Naw, an analyst from the ethnic Kachin minority focusing on national reconciliation. "We know the game the army is playing. But as a politician elected by the people, she is accountable for her inaction and failure to condemn the army."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australia offers additional military help to Philippines

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's foreign minister says her country has offered to help train the Philippine military in its fight against extremists linked to the Islamic State group. Australia has already sent surveillance planes to help the Philippines, where the southern city of Marawi has been under siege for months by Islamic State-linked militants. In a recent video, the Islamic State group singled out Australia and the U.S. as key backers of the Philippines military offensive in Marawi. On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said that Australia was prepared to send additional help in the form of training for the Philippine military.

Train partly derails in India's 3rd rail accident in 10 days

NEW DELHI (AP)—A passenger train partly derailed Tuesday morning in western India, the third rail accident in the country in 10 days. There were no casualties or injuries immediately reported, railway spokesman A.K. Jain said. Rescuers were working to pull out people who were trapped in the toppled train engine and seven coaches lying on their sides. It was not immediately clear what caused the derailment near the populous city of Thane, in the state of Maharashtra. The west Indian district near the commercial capital of Mumbai has suffered heavy rains over the past two days, which Jain said may have affected the track. Railway authorities have ordered an investigation into the accident, which occurred 10 days after five cars of an express train jumped the track in northern India, killing 22. A few days later, another train derailed in northern India, leaving 81 people injured.

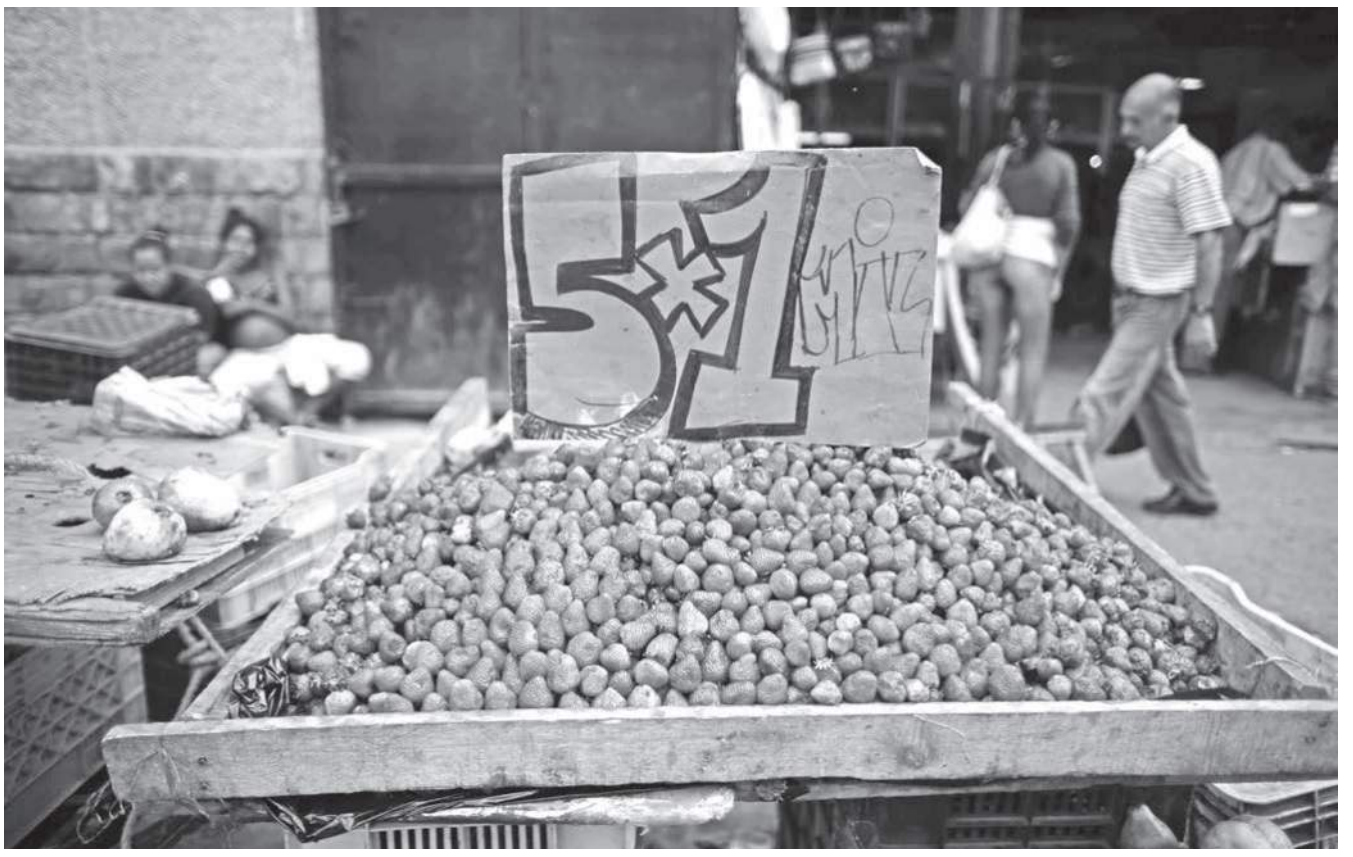
Thai police say Interpol has issued notice for Red Bull heir

BANGKOK (AP)—Interpol has issued an international request for the arrest of the billionaire heir to the Red Bull energy drink fortune, stepping up of the hunt for the fugitive Thai playboy wanted in a 2012 hit-and-run incident that left a traffic policeman dead in Bangkok. Thai police spokesman Col. Krissana Pattanacharoen said Monday that his department had been notified by the international police network of the "Red Notice," a worldwide request to find and provisionally arrest an individual, pending extradition.

Vorayuth Yoovidhya skipped Thailand at the end of April, just before authorities issued an arrest warrant after he repeatedly failed to meet with prosecutors since the September 2012 crash. He flew to Singapore on one of the family's private jets. His trail has since gone cold. "We have been informed that Interpol has issued a Red Notice on the Red Bull heir, and we now have to wait to see what kind of responses we get from member countries," Krissana said. "We have been working on this case and pursuing it using all means, and this Red Notice is what we can do when we believe that it's possible that he is hiding in foreign countries."

World

US sanctions to pile misery on moribund Venezuelan economy



AP
In this Aug. 23, 2017 photo, a market stall offers strawberries in Caracas, Venezuela.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A small army of red-shirted workers mop the linoleum floors as their supervisors, sitting under a giant portrait of Hugo Chavez, look on. By the meltdown standards of Venezuela's economy, the shelves around the workers at the state-run Bicentenario supermarket in eastern Caracas are brimming with staples like rice and pasta.

What's missing are the shoppers: They've been scared off by prices that double every few weeks while wages in the crisis-wracked nation remain stagnant.

"I don't even look at my paycheck anymore because it just gets me depressed," said Norma Pena, a bank teller who earns a little more than Venezuela's minimum wage of around just $15 a month. She left the store with a single bag of black beans.

While President Nicolas Maduro celebrates having calmed Venezuela's streets after months of deadly protests, the country's imploding economy poses an ever more severe threat. And the misery is likely to get even worse due to financial sanctions imposed by the Trump administration in efforts to isolate Maduro for taking the country down an increasingly authoritarian path.

Even before the sanctions were announced, most Venezuelans were struggling like never before. Since 2014, the year after Maduro took office, the economy has shrunk 35 percent—more than the U.S. did during the Great Depression.

A bevy of foreign airlines have pulled out of the country this year, oil production is at the lowest level in more than two decades and the government had to add three zeros to its bills as the value of its currency—the "strong bolivar"— plummeted.

But while daylong bread lines have eased, the newest scourge is galloping inflation, as the government tries to combat shortages by quietly loosening once-rigid price and currency controls.

In recent months authorities have started allowing companies to import everything from canned food to new cars and letting them pass the dollar prices on to consumers at the black market exchange rate, where the greenback is worth 1,685 times more bolivars than it as at the strongest of three official exchange rates. In the past, merchants risked having goods seized, or their businesses shut down, if bolivar prices reflected the world market prices.

The result of the de-facto dollarization has been a devil's bargain: Shelves are fuller than Venezuela has seen for months, but with prices that are out of reach for the vast majority of poor Venezuelans. Inflation, which has been running in the triple digits for more than two years, hit a record last month and has risen to 650 percent over the past 12 months, according to an estimate by New York-based Torino Capital.

Venezuelans have made a grim joke of the process. The government once boasted of guaranteeing a "precio justo"—or "just price"—for goods. Buyers report there is now more on offer but only at a "precio susto"—a "scary price."

That's not to say shortages have gone away. The Bicentenario supermarket hasn't seen any fish or meat in about a year, partly because the freezer section's cooling system broke and no spare parts can be found. Most shelves contain a single variety of any given product, much of it imported from China. Private supermarkets aren't much better stocked.

New Hamas leader says it is getting aid again from Iran

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas' new leader in the Gaza Strip said Monday his group has repaired relations with Iran after a five-year rift and is using its newfound financial and military aid to gear up for new hostilities with Israel.

The announcement by Yehiyeh Sinwar came as U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was visiting Israel. At a meeting with the U.N. chief, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu complained about what he called rising anti-Israel activity by Iran and its allies in the region.

Iran was once the top backer of Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seeks Israel's destruction. But Hamas broke with Iran in 2012 after the group refused to support Iran's close ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad, in the Syrian civil war.

During a four-hour meeting with journalists, Sinwar said those ties have been restored and are stronger than ever.

"Today, the relationship with Iran is excellent, or very excellent," Sinwar said. He added that the Islamic Republic is "the largest backer financially and militarily" to Hamas' military wing.

It was the first time that Sinwar has met reporters since he was elected in February. The 55-year-old Sinwar, who spent two decades in Israeli prison after being convicted of masterminding the abduction and killing of two Israeli soldiers, has close ties with Hamas' militant wing and takes a hard line toward Israel.

Israel and Iran are bitter enemies, and Israel has recently expressed concern that Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah are seeking a permanent military presence in Syria near the Israeli border. Both Hezbollah fighters and Iran have backed Assad's forces in the Syrian war.

In his meeting with Guterres, Netanyahu alleged Iran is building sites in Syria and Lebanon to produce "precision-guided missiles" to be used against Israel.

"Iran is busy turning Syria into a base of military entrenchment, and it wants to use Syria and Lebanon as warfronts against its declared goal to eradicate Israel," Netanyahu said. "This is something Israel cannot accept. This is something the U.N. should not accept."

Israel has also accused the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, of failing to prevent Hezbollah from smuggling huge quantities of weapons into southern Lebanon in violation of a 2006 cease-fire. UNIFIL's mandate is up for renewal at the end of the month and Israel is pressing for the force to have an increased presence to better monitor and prevent the alleged Hezbollah arms buildup.

UNIFIL's commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Beary, told The Associated Press last week that he has no evidence that weapons are being illegally transferred and stockpiled in the Hezbollah-dominated south. But Guterres promised Netanyahu that he will do everything in my capacity" to ensure UNIFIL fulfills its obligations.

"I understand the security concerns of Israel and I repeat that the idea or the intention or the will to destroy the state of Israel is something totally unacceptable from my perspective," he said.

Responding to Israeli claims that the U.N. is biased, Guterres stressed his commitment to "treating all states equally." He said those who call for Israel's destruction peddle in a "form of modern anti-Semitism"—though he also said he doesn't always agree with the country's policies.

Guterres heads to the West Bank on Tuesday and is scheduled to visit Gaza on Wednesday. The U.N. maintains major operations in Gaza, running schools and health clinics and delivering humanitarian aid. Guterres is not scheduled to speak to Hamas.

Late Monday, Guterres met with Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai, commander of COGAT, the defense body that is responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs.

WORLD BRIEFS

German prosecutors believe nurse killed at least 86 patients

BERLIN (AP)—A male nurse who was convicted of killing patients in Germany with overdoses of heart medication is now believed to have killed at least 86 people—and the true scale of the killings could be even larger, investigators said Monday. Many of the deaths could have been prevented if health authorities had acted more quickly on their suspicions, said Johann Kuehme, police chief in the northwestern city of Oldenburg. Niels Hoegel, now 40, was convicted in 2015 of two murders and two attempted murders at a hospital in the northwestern town of Delmenhorst. He was sentenced to life in prison. But prosecutors have long said they believe he killed many more people, last year putting the figure at 43 at least. The crimes came to light after Hoegel was convicted of attempted murder in another case. Authorities subsequently investigated hundreds of deaths, exhuming bodies of former patients in Delmenhorst and nearby Oldenburg. Kuehme said Monday that authorities have now unearthed evidence of 84 killings in addition to the ones for which Hoegel was convicted. The number of actual killings is likely higher because some possible victims were cremated, making it impossible to gather evidence, Kuehme added.

War crimes suits against Sri Lankan ambassador in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Human rights groups in South America are alleging war crimes violations in lawsuits filed against a former Sri Lankan general who is now his Asian nation's ambassador to Brazil and five other countries in Latin America. The suits against Jagath Jayasuriya are based on his role as a commander in the final phase of Sri Lanka's civil war in 2009. They allege Jayasuriya oversaw military units that attacked hospitals and killed, disappeared and tortured thousands of people. Jayasuriya has diplomatic immunity in the countries where he is ambassador: Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Suriname. But the groups pursuing the suits hope they will compel regional governments to expel him. Carlos Castresana Fernandez, the lawyer coordinating the effort, told The Associated Press on Monday night that suits were filed Monday in Brazil and Colombia. Petitions also will be filed in Argentina, Chile and Peru in the coming days, he said, adding that authorities in Suriname refused to accept the suit. "This is one genocide that has been forgotten, but this will force democratic countries to do something," Fernandez said. "This is just the beginning of the fight."

Good Housekeeping

'My garden is my life': At 87, Illinois resident shows no signs of slowing down

TNS
At age 87, Norridge resident Pasquale Cesario remains a passionate gardener.

By Chicago Tribune staff
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NORRIDGE, Ill. — Family and friends sometimes marvel at the stamina longtime Norridge resident Pasquale Cesario displays, spending long hours tending to his three large gardens that overflow with an amazing variety of fruits and vegetables.

"He does have great muscle tone for someone 87," commented his daughter, Ivana Di Piero. "He compares his muscles with my son Rocco all the time."

His family would like him to take an occasional break — maybe sit and read a book, she said, but so far her father isn't ready to heed the advice.

"Believe it my friend," he says to a visitor, sitting with his daughter and his wife, Luigina Cesario, at a table in in the couple's kitchen at their Norridge home, "my garden is my life now. It's my pleasure."

Indeed, he maintains three beautifully organized gardens in Norridge, one behind his home, and others behind his daughter's home and her friend's.

"There's basically no grass," Di Piero said. "Every inch of soil is filled with fruits or flowers or some type of vegetable."

Snatching a ripe peach from a fruit tree, he led a visitor on a tour of one of his gardens, proudly pointing out some of the crops. They include tomatoes, onions, potatoes, zucchini, many kinds of pepper, spinach, rapini, a variety of beans, lettuce, eggplant, various herbs and spices such as parsley, basil, sage, oregano, rosemary.

"He's in the garden after his morning coffee, comes in to eat lunch, and then goes back in the garden until the sun goes down," Di Piero said. "He starts his seeds in February and picks his last crop in early December. He takes care of each one of his plants as if they were human life and loves to see them grow and produce their fruit. He treats them with love."

"I truly believe the gardens is why my dad is in such great health," she said.

Both her parents are immigrants of Calabria in southern Italy, where farming is a way of life, she said. Born the same day, the same year in the same town, they have known each other for their entire life, and have now been together for 64 years, Di Piero said.

They moved to America at age 40 for better life opportunities, and found work in factories, raising a family of four.

During their time in America, "we always had a garden," said Di Piero, the youngest of four siblings. "I mean, honestly, other than meat and eggs and milk, they really don't buy much because everything produced by the garden is canned for the winter, eaten fresh in the garden."

"We never buy bread," she added. "He (her father) buys about 500 pounds of flour, which my mother goes through in a year. She makes bread; she makes homemade pasta. For the holidays, she also makes sweets — her oven is always on."

Friday was known as Pizza Day, with Luigina making up to 34 pizzas, feeding not only herself and Pasquale, but children and grandchildren.

"So we all knew to pass by Friday night and pick up a pizza," said Di Piero. Sunday was usually family day, with family members gathering after church for one of her mother's sumptuous meals.

"She said her favorite thing is when her whole family is together," Di Piero said. "She loved to make dinner for her whole family."

It doesn't stop there. In October, Pasquale turns to winemaking, producing about 130 gallons a year, which is stored in barrels in the family's basement.

In January, typically, he makes makes his own salami, getting the casings from a butcher friend in Alsip and filling them with sausage and Italian delicacies such as capocollo, soppressata and prosciutto, and then hanging them to cure. He makes about a thousand pounds of salami a year for his entire family.

Pasquale and Luigina, born on the same day, in the same year, in the same town, work as a tandem, most of the time.

"They fight a lot because he grows too much and then she has got too much work to do," Di Piero said.

But overall, the two demonstrate "what two 87-year-olds can do with their hard work and a whole lot of love," she said.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† Merced Camacho Peterson

Also known as "Beling" or "Blondie"
Born on September 27, 1950,
was called to eternal life on August 25, 2017

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband	†Ronald Asa Peterson
Mother	†Theodora Sablan Camacho
Father	†Jack Eugene Hattig, Sr.
Brothers In-Law	†Joseph W. Torres
	†Dwayne A. Johnson

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Son and Family:

Jess Camacho and Lynn B. Duenas Peterson
Vinson Edward Deleon Guerrero &
Celine F. Orsini *(Kaiya Cadence)*
Jesse Brandon & Amanda Mae Ramon
(Jesse Brandon, Jr.), Jesse John Hiroaki
Duenas Yamagishi, Donavin Kenji
Duenas Yamagishi, Zackery Shigeru
Duenas Yamagishi & Shenina H.
Delgado, Daenna Mari Duenas Yamagishi

Step-Mother:	Erlinda Hattig
Maternal Sisters:	Rosita C. Torres & Family
	Anigonia C. and Daniel Moy & Family
	Debra C. Johnson & Family
Paternal Brothers & Sister:	Jack E. Hattig, Jr. & Family
	Daniel J. Hattig & Family
	John D. Hattig, Sr. & Maria Duarte & Family
	Walter J. Hattig & Family
	Juanita L. Gumataotao
	Herbert G. and Marilyn Hattig & Family
	Keith W. and Delai Hattig, Sr. & Family

She is additionally survived by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 pm, Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am, and San Roque Church at 6:00 pm. Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, September 06, 2017. Her remains will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00 am with Responso Service followed by Holy Rosary. Her remains will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church at 9:00 am. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 9:30 am followed by Interment Service at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery, Marpi, Saipan.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Jess & Lynn Peterson, Children, and Families

Life & Style

'Despacito' ties Mariah Carey's 16-week record at No. 1

NEW YORK (AP)—The ubiquitous hit song "Despacito" has tied Mariah Carey's 16-week record at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Billboard announced Monday that Luis Fonsi's song and Carey's duet with Boyz II Men, "One Sweet Day," are the longest-running No. 1 songs in the 59-year history of the charts.

Carey's song reigned at the top spot in 1995 and 1996.

Fonsi's "Despacito" features Daddy Yankee, while Justin Bieber appears on the remix. The song's video—the original not the remix—became the first video in YouTube history to reach 3 billion views.

"This is a historic day for Latin music! I'm incredibly thankful for all of my fans and their amazing support. Feeling very blessed right now," Fonsi said in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday.

In this April 27, 2017 file photo, singers Luis Fonsi, left and Daddy Yankee perform during the Latin Billboard Awards in Coral Gables, Fla.

AP

"Despacito" has a chance to log 17 weeks at No. 1 on the Hot 100, but will have stiff competition when Taylor Swift's "Look What You Made Me Do" debuts on the chart next week.

"Despacito" has become an international success and is the year's biggest hit, but the song has also been overlooked. The music video did not receive any nominations at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards. MTV, which has not played the video on its main channel or MTV2, said the song's record label never submitted the video. Universal Music Latin Entertainment said MTV didn't ask the label to send in the clip in time for its nominations.

Weeks after MTV released its VMA nominees, the network announced its song of summer category, where the "Despacito" remix received a nomination. But the song lost to "XO Tour Life," the Top 10 hit by rapper Lil Uzi Vert.

"Despacito" has been played on MTV Tres, the company's Latin channel, but MTV didn't explain why it wasn't playing the video on MTV or MTV2. Representatives for the network didn't respond to emails from The Associated Press when asked if "Despacito" would be added to MTV or MTV2.

Nielsen Music said the song has sold 2.239 million digital tracks. It has more than 513 million on-demand video streams and 464 million on-demand audio streams.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Oliver Wayne "Pete" Shilling

BORN ON JUNE 22, 1944, CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME ON AUGUST 24, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father:	**† Oliver Spoor Shilling**
Mother:	**† Ruth Joy Shilling**
Father-in-Law:	**† Juan Quitugua Norita**
Mother-in-Law:	**† Maria Baleto Norita**
Step Mother-in-Law:	**† Ana Manglona Norita**
Brother-in-Law:	**† Isidro Manglona Norita**
Sister-in-Law:	**† Connie Norita Taisacan**

His memories will live on in his:

Wife: **Lucia Norita Shilling**

Children, Stepchildren, & Grand Children:

Daniel William Shilling & Maileen Shilling
Joseph Peter, Monica Kay, & Anna Mae
Christina Ruth Shilling
Kimberly Barnes Yamauchi & Ryan Yamauchi
Kyra Hanako & Trevor Isidro
Kevin Eric Norita Barnes & Victoria Sorrell
Megan Lucia

Brother, Sister, Nieces, & Nephews:

James F. Shilling & Nancy Shilling
Barbara H. Lynch
Cindy L. Palato, Jim Palato & David Ross

He will also be remembered by numerous Brothers/Sisters-in-law, Cousins, Grand Nieces, and Grand Nephews.

Daily Eucharistic Celebration for the repose of his soul are being celebrated at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag every evening at 6:00pm, followed by Daily Rosary at 7:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, September 2, 2017 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral.
The remains will arrive at 8:30am for the Responso Service and Holy Rosary, followed by the Eulogies and Holy Mass.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be at peaceful rest, followed by the reception at Tanapag Social Hall.

Please join us in prayers,

LUCIA N. SHILLING, CHILDREN, AND FAMILY

Judge: Lynyrd Skynyrd film violates 3-decade-old agreement

NEW YORK (AP)—A film created with help from a former Lynyrd Skynyrd drummer violates a "blood oath" surviving band members made not to exploit the band's name and history, a judge concluded as he blocked its distribution, siding with a surviving member of the 1970s pioneering southern rock group and the widow of its lead singer.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet was unsealed Monday at the request of a lawyer for a Los Angeles-based independent record label that planned to distribute the film, "Street Survivors: The True Story of the Lynyrd Skynyrd Plane Crash." It was dated last Wednesday.

In the 1970s, the band rode the popularity of classics like "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Free Bird" to stardom before lead singer and songwriter Ronnie Van Zant died in the October 1977 crash in Mississippi. The same year, the band released its final album: "Street Survivor."

Evan Mandel, a lawyer for Cleopatra Records Inc. and Cleopatra Films, said in a Manhattan court filing that Sweet's ruling did not disclose the "specific parameters" of relief to the plaintiffs. The judge, though, wrote that a ruling against Cleopatra would result in no profits from the film, which cost $1.2 million to produce and was finished this spring.

Ed Skrein pulls out of 'Hellboy' film after backlash

NEW YORK (AP)—British actor Ed Skrein has withdrawn from the upcoming "Hellboy" reboot a week after his casting sparked outcries of whitewashing.

In a lengthy post on his social media channels Monday, Skrein said he accepted the role of Ben Daimio unaware of its Asian heritage. The character Skrein was to play, Ben Daimio, is Japanese-American in the "Hellboy" comics the films are based on. Critics said Skrein's casting was just the latest instance of an Asian or Asian-American role being handed to a white actor.

Skrein

"It is clear that representing this character in a culturally accurate way holds significance for people and that to neglect this responsibility would continue a worrying tendency to obscure ethnic minority stories and voices in the arts," wrote Skrein. "I feel it is important to honor and respect that. Therefore I have decided to step down so the role can be cast appropriately."

The backlash followed previous controversies including the castings of Emma Stone as a half-Hawaiian, half-Chinese Air Force pilot in Cameron Crowe's "Aloha" and Scarlett Johansson as the cyborg protagonist in the Japanese anime remake "Ghost in the Shell." Last week's Netflix release, the Japanese manga adaptation "Death Note" also drew criticism for transferring a Japanese story to Seattle without any Asian actors.

Producers of "Hellboy: Rise of the Blood Queen" said they fully supported Skrein's "unselfish decision."

"It was not our intent to be insensitive to issues of authenticity and ethnicity, and we will look to recast the part with an actor more consistent with the character in the source material," said Larry Gordon, Lloyd Levin, Lionsgate and Millennium Films in a joint statement.

Israel's embattled PM shows lighter side with Conan O'Brien

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is facing calls to resign amid a raft of corruption investigations, but the only prodding he got from Conan O'Brien concerned his choice of dog treats.

The two traded barbs over a meal at the prime minister's residence as they tossed cucumbers to his dog, Kaya. Netanyahu quipped that the fluffy white dog is "paler than you," while the fair-skinned O'Brien offered that "if you try to give an American dog a cucumber, he would punch you."

The American comedian is in Israel to film an episode of his TBS show.

It was not clear from the brief video clip posted online Monday if the two discussed the corruption investigations or the weekly protests calling for Netanyahu to step down. Netanyahu has denied any wrongdoing.

'Game of Thrones' breaks audience record with season finale

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO's "Game of Thrones" set yet another audience record Sunday with its seventh-season finale. Nielsen says an all-time high of 12.1 million viewers were tuned in to the wildly popular fantasy drama. An additional 4 million caught the episode on streaming channels.

The seven-episode season began with 10.1 million viewers, while episode 5 drew 10.7 million.

This season "Game of Thrones" has regularly ranked as the second-most-viewed series each week among all programs, both cable and broadcast. Its eighth and final season is scheduled to air next year.

AP

This image released by HBO shows Kit Harington, left, and Emilia Clarke on the season finale of "Game of Thrones."

Antonoff staying mum about Taylor Swift's target in new song

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Look at what you won't make him do: Producer Jack Antonoff is keeping quiet about who Taylor Swift is singing about in her new song.

Antonoff co-wrote and co-produced "Look What You Made Me Do," Swift's upbeat new song that is rumored to be about Kanye West. Some even felt the song's lyrics referenced former friend Katy Perry.

When asked who Swift is referring to, Antonoff told The Associated Press: "That's for her to tell you."

"Look What You Made Me Do" quickly set three records. The song has the most streams in a single day on Spotify with 10,129,087 plays; its official video—which debuted Sunday at the MTV Video Music Awards—broke Adele's record for highest number of views within 24 hours on Vevo (30 million and counting); and its lyric video was viewed more than 19 million times on its first day.

AP

In this combination photo, music producer Jack Antonoff appears at the MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 27, 2017, left, and Taylor Swift attends the Vanity Fair Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Feb. 28, 2016.

Antonoff, who is the guitarist in the band fun. and has a one-man band called Bleachers, has worked with Swift numerous times. He produced three songs on her "1989" album, which earned him a Grammy; he co-wrote Swift and Zayn's hit song, "I Don't Wanna Live Forever"; and he shared a Golden Globe nomination with Swift for her 2013 track, "Sweeter than Fiction."

"I love working with her," 33-year-old Antonoff said of Swift. "It's funny, I grew up just only writing my own songs and having bands ... (but) between Taylor and Lorde and Carly Rae (Jepsen), I've gotten to work with so many brilliant artists lately, and it means a lot."

Son braces for reaction to transgender fiancee

DEAR ABBY: I moved to the Philippines five years ago. While I was there I met "Emma." After a few months, I realized I was in love with her, and last year we became engaged. I took her to meet my family. They loved her and supported our engagement.

I'm now living in the States and she's still in the Philippines waiting for her visa. Emma is transgender and I don't know how to tell my family. I love her and know I want to spend the rest of my life with her, but my dad is homophobic, and I know he won't support my decision to marry a transgender woman. My mother will also be disappointed because we won't be able to have children together. I need your advice. What should I do?

FORBIDDEN LOVE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR FORBIDDEN LOVE: You say that when you introduced Emma to your family they liked and accepted her. Because you did not tell them then that your fiancee was transgender, expect them to be surprised. That news will bring your father face to face with his homophobia. As to your mother, even if Emma were not transgender, there's no guarantee that Emma would be able to bear children. In cases of infertility, couples sometimes decide to adopt or employ the help of a surrogate and an egg donor.

As a mature adult, the decision about whom you marry should be yours. Your parents' disapproval should have nothing to do with it. If and when you do give them the news, be prepared for a negative reaction. However, I see no reason why you feel you must tell them since they didn't question her gender before.

DEAR ABBY: A longtime friend of mine, "Mia," married a little over a year ago and moved a few hours away. They have been having trouble in their marriage, but have been trying hard to make it work. Mia is now pregnant, and her baby is due next month.

Over the past few months her husband has been messaging me on Facebook. He hasn't said anything overtly sexual, but it is clearly flirtatious. I don't know him well, so I either don't respond or give one-word answers.

I feel what he's doing is inappropriate, but I'm unsure how to proceed. He's extremely sensitive and reactive to rejection. I'm afraid if I confront him, I will no longer be welcome in their home. I'm also worried that if I tell Mia, she'll be devastated and our friendship will be ruined. Any advice would be appreciated.

ANONYMOUS READER

DEAR ANONYMOUS: If you deal with this directly, your friend's husband will likely deny it and become defensive and punitive. Unless his flirtation becomes overtly sexual, continue to ignore it. Do not respond immediately to his messages. If he asks you why, say you are busy. If you feel you must comment, keep it casual, remote and brief. And always ask him to relay regards to his wife. It may remind him that he's married.

DEAR ABBY: Under what circumstances do you ask your adult offspring (still living at home, working, doing their own laundry, somewhat feeding themselves) to contribute money toward household expenses?

JUST WONDERING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR JUST WONDERING: At what point? I recommend you do it tonight!

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

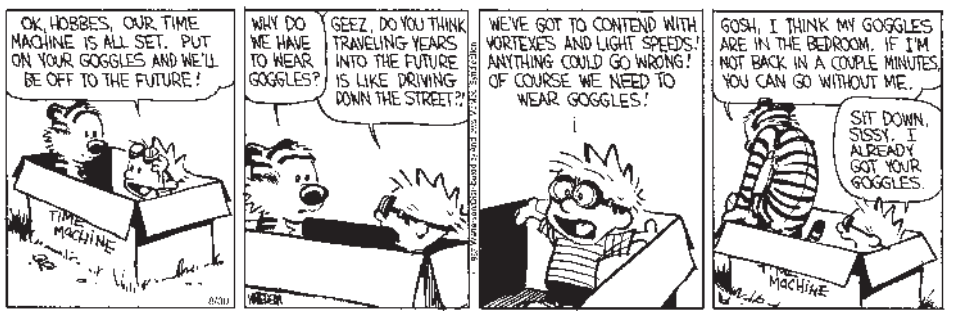
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

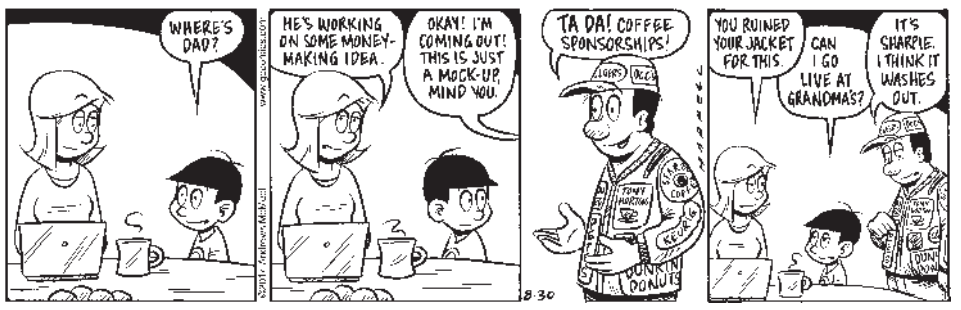

OK, HOBBES, OUR TIME MACHINE IS ALL SET. PUT ON YOUR GOGGLES AND WE'LL BE OFF TO THE FUTURE!
TIME MACHINE
WHY DO WE HAVE TO WEAR GOGGLES?
GEEZ, DO YOU THINK TRAVELING YEARS INTO THE FUTURE IS LIKE DRIVING DOWN THE STREET?!
WE'VE GOT TO CONTEND WITH WORTEXES AND LIGHT SPEEDS! ANYTHING COULD GO WRONG! OF COURSE WE NEED TO WEAR GOGGLES!
GOSH, I THINK MY GOGGLES ARE IN THE BEDROOM. IF I'M NOT BACK IN A COUPLE MINUTES, YOU CAN GO WITHOUT ME.
SIT DOWN, SISSY. I ALREADY GOT YOUR GOGGLES.
TIME MACHINE

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE'S DAD?
HE'S WORKING ON SOME MONEY-MAKING IDEA.
OKAY! I'M COMING OUT! THIS IS JUST A MOCK-UP, MIND YOU.
TA DA! COFFEE SPONSORSHIPS!
YOU RUINED YOUR JACKET FOR THIS.
CAN I GO LIVE AT GRANDMA'S?
IT'S SHARPIE. I THINK IT WASHES OUT.
8-30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

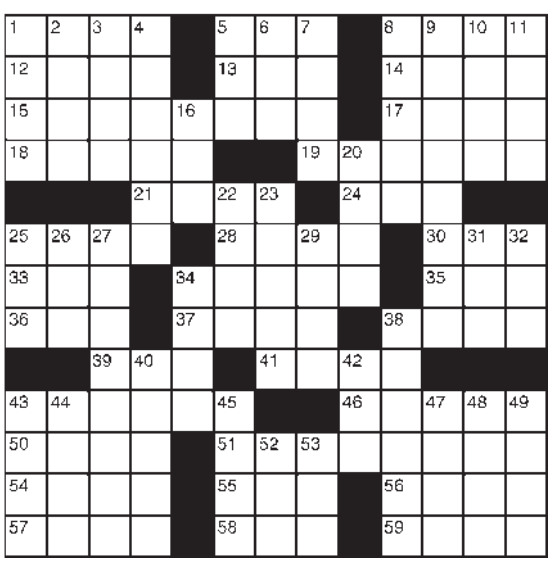
ACROSS
1 Melodies
5 "Wham!"
8 Icelandic epic
12 Ink smudge
13 — Jima
14 Picture of health?
15 Wild hyacinth
17 Burning heap
18 Lauder of cosmetics
19 Tops with icing
21 Lusty look
24 AOL, for one
25 Baby kangaroo
28 Beef cut
30 Antlered animal
33 URL ending
34 Newsstand
35 Grazing land
36 Entreat
37 Sunrise direction
38 Satiate
39 Soak (up)
41 Bean curd
43 Papeete's island
46 Watchful giant of myth
50 Hurler Hershiser
51 Aggressive advertising
54 Leer at
55 Kimono sash
56 "Yes —?"
57 Snitched
58 Boxer
59 Harvest

DOWN
1 French cleric
2 Misfortunes
3 Lopsided win
4 Hard and cold
5 Picnic dessert
6 Wise bird
7 CNN's Blitzer
8 Trade shows
9 Drought
10 Scurry
11 Pro votes
16 Spelldown
20 Hockey venue
22 Lamb alias
23 Perch
25 Task
26 Raw rock
27 Off-white
29 Analogy words
31 Zodiac cat
32 Jay follower
34 Retained
38 Arrow on a computer screen
40 Lubricated
42 Passing craze
43 Horn sound
44 Jason's ship
45 Denny's rival
47 "Arbitrage" actor Richard
48 Radius neighbor
49 Sty chow
52 Dhabi preceder
53 Predetermine

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	U	S	T		A	B	S		R	C	W	S
A	N	N	O		B	I	C		E	V	I	L
H	A	L	M	O	U	T	H		C	A	H	A
			B	E	T		O	M	E	L	E	T
D	E	C	O	R		C	O	I	N			
O	L	A	Y		F	A	S	T	A	F	F	
F	I	R		Z	O	N	E	S		M	A	E
F	A	L	T	E	R	E	D		C	N	S	
			A	R	C	S		B	U	R	S	T
M	O	N	R	O	E		E	B	B			
A	N	A	G		F	A	S	E	T	T	O	
A	C	M	E		U	P	S		R	C	S	A
M	E	F	T		I	F	F		S	T	A	R

Yesterday's answer 8-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Roddick, 35; Lisa Ling, 44; Cameron Diaz, 45; Michael Chiklis, 54.

Happy Birthday: Emotional situations will lead to uncertainty. Take your time and look at all your options before you make a move. Control whatever situation arises to avoid loss. Take on responsibilities eagerly and build strong ties with those who have something to offer you in return. A well-planned change will encourage ongoing success. Stick to the facts. Emotional deception will lead to trouble. Your numbers are 7, 18, 22, 27, 32, 39, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A business trip or meeting is favored. You can bring about positive changes if you demonstrate what you have to offer and the best way to apply your skills, knowledge and services. Don't make impulsive decisions. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Channel your energy wisely. Concentrate on finances, contracts and taking better care of your health. A fitness routine may not be your first choice, but if you pick the right activity, it can turn out to be beneficial and fun. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Alterations to your home or important relationships will help to stabilize your life. A willingness to compromise combined with a smart financial plan will help ease stress and give you the breathing room you need to move forward. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* An emotional incident should not distract from your business dealings or productivity. If something is bothering you, deal with it quietly and only after you have had time to assess the situation thoroughly. Avoid impulsive reactions. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* If you don't like something, change it. Don't wait for others to take over. You have the skills and knowledge to bring about positive change and the ability to impress others and get ahead while doing so. Hard work will lead to positive change. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Listen carefully and share as little personal information as possible. Knowledge is power and will help you decipher who you want to align yourself with. Partnerships will not be as they appear. Get what you want in writing. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Throw your weight around. Make decisions, set a course of action and follow through. Refuse to let someone push you around. Think big and be willing to help those in need. Make a positive contribution. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Check out new job posts or any opportunity to use your skills to increase your income. A change in the way you produce and present what you have to offer will lead to more time to do the things you enjoy doing most. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Do whatever it takes to reach your goals. Take on physical or emotional challenges with the intent of pushing forward until you see changes transpire. Travel and education are encouraged and will help improve your quality of life. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pick up the pace and work hard until you reach your goal. Interference can be expected if you are dealing with government agencies or financial institutions. Back away from people who are inconsistent. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Partnerships are featured. Changes can be made if you collaborate with someone you love. Your ability to reach your goal and to make a difference will be reason to celebrate. Work hard and play hard and you'll have no regrets. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Focus on your responsibilities and don't stop until you are finished. It's important to keep your head down if you want to avoid being dragged into someone else's problems. Mediating could be interpreted as meddling. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are cautious, scrutinizing and protective. You are visionary and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					8	5		
				2			4	
				9			7	1
	3	2			7	6		
8			1	4	2		3	
4							8	
	5						1	
		9	4	3	6	8		
			7		5			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	3	6	1	4	8	5	9
8	5	1	9	7	3	2	6	4
6	9	4	8	5	2	7	1	3
3	1	2	5	4	8	9	7	6
4	6	5	7	9	1	3	2	8
9	7	8	3	2	6	1	4	5
5	3	6	2	8	7	4	9	1
1	8	7	4	6	9	5	3	2
2	4	9	1	3	5	6	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HOMER SIMPSON Solution: 11 letters

S	A	A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	S	O	F	A
T	N	U	R	G	I	N	O	R	I	D	O	H	M	N
L	G	A	K	I	R	A	S	B	A	P	U	C	O	I
P	R	D	A	N	E	R	B	R	I	B	G	R	C	M
R	Y	A	J	E	E	A	E	S	E	N	S	A	T	A
E	N	E	C	D	B	S	N	S	I	L	S	I	I	T
H	N	L	N	A	U	A	H	N	I	T	E	R	S	E
T	E	A	R	O	C	A	E	S	E	Y	L	T	N	D
A	L	N	H	K	R	O	A	L	O	L	E	A	R	O
F	E	L	I	P	R	B	L	F	M	L	U	P	U	N
Y	I	N	S	G	R	A	P	O	W	E	L	L	B	U
M	G	N	T	A	N	A	N	O	M	B	C	L	R	T
G	G	T	H	E	F	F	U	D	S	G	A	G	M	S
F	A	A	T	R	E	B	R	E	H	Z	I	L	E	L
M	M	A	R	G	E	V	E	R	Y	M	A	N	D	D

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Abbie, Abraham, Adventures, Akira, Angry, Animated, Apu, Bald, Barney, Bart, Beer, Belly, Be Sharps, Carl, Castellaneta, Clueless, Dan, D'oh, Donuts, Duff, Everyman, Father, Flanders, Food, Gags, Gino, Grunt, Herbert, Jay, Lazy, Lead, Lenny, Lisa, Maggie, Marge, Matt Groening, Milhouse, Moe, Mona, Mr. Burns, Ned, Patriarch, Powell, Sitcom, Snacking, Sofa

Yesterday's Answer: Teflon

Treasuries 13 through 28 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DORIS M. DE VILLA, Petitioner vs. CHRISTIAN B. DE VILLA, Respondent) CD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0375) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PO Box 505920 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Restaurant Waitress (3): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

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Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person, applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
Please no phone calls.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Program Officer
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Program Officer.

The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited post-secondary institution. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

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Emotional Sharapova tops No. 2 Halep at Open in Slam return

AP

Maria Sharapova drops to thecourt after defeating second seed Simona Halep 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in their opening round match in the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 28, 2017.

NEW YORK (AP)—When Maria Sharapova's first Grand Slam match after a 15-month doping suspension ended with a victory at the U.S. Open, she dropped to her knees and covered her face, tears welling in her eyes.

This was merely a win to get to the second round, yes, but it also clearly meant so much more to Sharapova. It meant she was back.

Displaying as much emotion on court as she ever did after one of her five major championships, Sharapova recovered after faltering midway through the match and emerged to beat No. 2-seeded Simona Halep 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 at the U.S. Open over more than 2½ hours Monday night.

"Behind all these Swarovski crystals and little black dresses," Sharapova told the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd, "this girl has a lot of grit, and she's not going anywhere."

So much about Sharapova was the same as it ever was: the shot-punctuating shrieks, the aggressive baseline style, the terrific returning, the sometimes-shaky serving.

Another familiar sight: She gutted out a win.

"It's been a while," said Sharapova, who missed additional time after her ban because of injuries. "It almost seemed like I had no right to win this match today. And I somehow did. I think that is what I'm most proud of."

After leading by a set and 4-1 in the second, Sharapova showed some fatigue and rust, dropping five games in a row. But in the third, Sharapova regained control by going ahead 3-0, using her power to keep two-time French Open runner-up Halep under pressure.

Sharapova had not played at a Grand Slam tournament since January 2016, when she tested positive for the newly banned heart drug meldonium during the Australian Open.

The 30-year-old Russian was allowed back on the tour this April, but she was denied a wild-card invitation for the French Open the next month. The U.S. Tennis Association did grant a wild card to Sharapova, who was once ranked No. 1 but is currently 146th.

It was as if every one of Sharapova's winners Monday—and she compiled 60, a startling 45 more than Halep—was her way of declaring, "Look out, everybody!"

Halep was among eight women who entered the U.S. Open with a chance to top the WTA rankings by tournament's end. The draw at Flushing Meadows randomly paired the two players, providing a buzz-generating matchup that managed to live up to the hype on Day 1 at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

"I gave everything I had," Halep said. "She was better."

And at an event that began without Serena Williams, who is expecting a baby, and is already missing two of its top seven seeded women—No. 7 Johanna Konta, a Wimbledon semifinalist just last month, was upset by 78th-ranked Aleksandra Krunic of Serbia 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 - Sharapova must be considered a serious title contender. She did, after all, win the U.S. Open in 2006.

But Sharapova wasn't interested in looking too far ahead just yet.

"This is a big win for me, and I will enjoy it," she said, "then move on to the next one."

Sharapova vs. Halep was a tremendously entertaining and high-quality contest, more befitting a final than a first-rounder.

These two women have, indeed, faced off with a Grand Slam title at stake: Sharapova beat Halep in the 2014 French Open final, part of what is now her 7-0 head-to-head record in the matchup.

On Monday, they traded stinging shots, often with Sharapova—dressed in all black, from her visor, to her dress that sparkled under the lights, to her socks and shoes—aiming to end exchanges and Halep hustling into place to extend them.

"I expected her to hit everything," Halep said. "Some balls were really good. I couldn't even touch them."

Points would last 10 or 12 strokes, or more, repeatedly leaving a sellout crowd of 23,771 in Arthur Ashe Stadium clapping and yelling and high-fiving, no matter which player won them. The chair umpire repeatedly admonished spectators to hush.

Halep blinked at the end of the hour-long first set, double-faulting to face a break point, then watching Sharapova punish a 71 mph second serve with a forehand return winner. That was Sharapova's sixth return winner; she would finish with 14, more than enough to counter her seven double-faults.

Halep lamented that her serve was "very bad."

Asked why, she answered: "I didn't have the timing, the feeling. I don't know why."

It was quickly 4-1 for Sharapova in the second set and she held a break point there to allow her to go up 5-1 and serve for the victory. But she couldn't convert it. Then, only then, did Sharapova struggle for a bit. Her footwork was off. Her forehand lost its way. She would end up losing that game and the next four, too, as Halep managed to force a third set.

But with the outcome in the balance, Sharapova once again looked as if she had never been away, improving to 11-0 in first-round matches in New York.

She was asked during her on-court interview what the low point was while forced off the tour.

"There were definitely a few," Sharapova allowed, before adding: "But I don't think this is the time to talk about that."

Texans long for Houston home, try to keep focus on football

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Tom Savage longs to hold his tiny daughter and spend some quality time with his wife.

J.J. Watt wants to do more than raise money via video on social media about 250 miles from Houston with the city swamped by floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey.

While wanting simply to be home with family and friends, the Texans are instead stranded in the Dallas area. And now what was supposed to be a home preseason game against Dallas will be played at the Cowboys stadium Thursday night.

"It's very, very tough," said Watt, the star defensive end who posted Monday that a fundraising effort that included selfie videos had raised more than $500,000 within 24 hours. "It's very difficult to watch, your family, your friends, your city, go through a time like this and not be there to help."

After losing an exhibition game at New Orleans on Saturday, the Texans essentially flew over their flood-stricken city on the way to Dallas. They practiced Monday at Cowboys headquarters, and were hotel hopping because of the uncertainty over what was next.

The NFL said late Monday afternoon that the exhibition game Thursday night was being moved to Arlington "due to public safety concerns resulting from the ongoing weather emergency related to Hurricane Harvey." The statement said the league and Texans would continue to closely monitor the situation in Houston and adjust the team's plans as necessary.

Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said the Texans were planning another practice at Dallas' facility on Tuesday afternoon.

Instead of a singular focus on his first season-opening start as an NFL quarterback, Savage was in constant contact with his wife between meetings and other team activities. At least he could say he was seeing his 7-month-old daughter, Summer, in video phone chats.

"Here you kind of feel like a little handcuffed," Savage said. "You can't do anything and as a father, you want to be there to support her and protect her. That's the hardest thing for all the guys. I can speak for them. We're the fathers. We want to be out there."

While sidestepping any specifics, coach Bill O'Brien said several coaches and players had homes in neighborhoods with both mandatory and voluntary evacuations. O'Brien said there were about 10 players in Houston and that everyone associated with the club was accounted for.

"Every individual is dealing with some different things," O'Brien said. "But we're on top of that and in touch with them."

The Texans had been home less than a week after spending training camp in West Virginia when they left for New Orleans. Conditions in Houston deteriorated during the day of the game against the Saints, and the team revealed afterward that it was headed for Dallas.

Savage said the message from his wife has been to keep his focus on football.

"She's always texting me every five minutes telling me Summer's OK," the former Pittsburgh standout said. "She's very supportive and understanding. But at the same time, I've seen her probably three days in the last month."

Players went through a light workout in shorts, helmets and jerseys on an outdoor turf field with the Dallas' star logo at the 50-yard line and "Cowboys" emblazoned in the end zones. The club used locker rooms that normally house high school teams at the 12,000-seat indoor stadium that is another practice field for the Cowboys.

"We've tried to accommodate them the best we can," O'Brien said. "We're trying to concentrate on football. But we're making sure that our players have time to be in contact with their families."

Watt questioned whether the preseason finale for both teams should be played, saying there should be a fundraising component to it. The Texans are supposed to open the regular season at home against Jacksonville on Sept. 10.

"You feel a little helpless," Watt said. "I feel like I'm up here in Dallas and I'm practicing football and in a hotel watching it on TV. It's very tough to know that all the people are back there and you really can't do anything about it."

Savage believes in one thing the Texans can do about it—in a little less than two weeks against the Jaguars.

"We're all really concerned going back," said Savage, who is set for his third career start. "But at the same time, it would be a good, kind of breath of fresh air to get a win versus Jacksonville for the city. That's our focus right now."

The other focus is family.

Royals scoreless streak at 43 innings after 12-0 loss to TB

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Royals are closing in on a major league futility record.

The Royals extended their scoreless streak to 43 innings, five shy of the record, getting shut out for a fourth straight game in a 12-0 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday night.

Kansas City hasn't scored since the second inning of a 3-2 loss to Colorado last Thursday, and it was blanked three times over the weekend by Cleveland. The 1968 Chicago Cubs and the 1906 Philadelphia Athletics hold the major league record at 48 innings.

The 1992 Cubs were the last team to be blanked in four straight games, and it hasn't happened in the AL since the 1964 Washington Senators - nine years before the adoption of the designated hitter. No team has been shut out in five straight games since at least 1913, according to information gathered from baseball-reference.com.

"I hate to say it, but it's all about learning how to lose," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "This can really wear you down and prolong streaks like this for a long time because it's very hard when you're losing these types of games because disappointment sets in, frustration sets in.

"At the end of the day if we haven't scored in four days, I can still look at this group knowing that this group has been all in for four days. They've played to the last out for four games. There is nothing more than I can ask from them."

The Royals were two games out of first place on July 28 after a nine-game winning streak. Since then, they have lost 19 of 29 and are 10 games behind AL Central-leading Cleveland and three games back of Minnesota for the final AL wild card.

Austin Pruitt (7-4) pitched six one-run innings for Tampa Bay, and Matt Andriese allowed one more hit while getting a three-inning save, his first this season.

Lucas Duda, Wilson Ramos and Logan Morrison went deep for Tampa Bay, with Duda getting his 25th and Morrison his 32nd of the season. Evan Longoria and Morrison hit back-to-back doubles after Duda's shot in the third off Ian Kennedy (4-10).

Kennedy was removed after Ramos' homer later that inning. He allowed seven runs on two homers and four doubles, two walks and a sacrifice fly. Kennedy has allowed 15 runs and 19 hits, six of them home runs, in 10 innings in his last three starts. He is winless in a club record 17 consecutive home starts.

"It's not the way I want to pitch," Kennedy said. "It's the worst I've done in a while that I can think of. I've been stringing some bad, bad outings in a row. That makes it really frustrating."

Morrison hit a three-run homer, his third in two games, in the ninth.

"Pruitt and Andriese did a great job," Morrison said. "Gave the guys at the back end of the bullpen some well-needed, well-deserved rest. Another 'W' on the way to where we need to go."

Rookie right-hander Pruitt, who gave up four home runs to Toronto in his previous start, walked one and struck out six.

"I was hitting my spots for the most part, and executing all of my pitches," Pruitt said. "LoMo (Morrison) made some unbelievable plays behind me. Holy smokes! That was awesome. That kind of put a little extra fire in me."

Morrison logged four assists with some dazzling glove work at first base.

"It was a complete game for LoMo," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "He made tremendous plays. Took away two or three hits, I think, so he did it on both sides of the ball."

Lorenzo Cain doubled with one out in the fourth for Kansas City's first hit. He reached third on Melky Cabrera's fly out, becoming the first Royal to touch third base since the fourth inning Saturday. Cain also doubled with two out in the ninth.

Andriese, who was just activated from the 60-day disabled list after a hip injury, allowed one walk and a double a Cain with two out in the ninth.

The Rays snapped an eight-game skid at Kauffman Stadium. They had lost 15 of their previous 16 games in Kansas City.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays shortstop Danny Espinosa (8) celebrates with second baseman Brad Miller, right, following a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Monday, Aug. 28, 2017.

Indians 6, Yankees 2

In New York, Corey Kluber outpitched Luis Severino in a marquee matchup of All-Stars, and slumping Jose Ramirez homered twice to power Cleveland past New York for its fifth straight victory.

Carlos Santana hit a tie-breaking homer off Severino in the seventh inning and Austin Jackson also went deep for the AL Central leaders, who increased their cushion to seven games over idle Minnesota.

Coming off three consecutive shutouts in a sweep of Kansas City, the defending AL champions ran their scoreless streak to 30 innings before Chase Headley homered against Kluber (13-4) leading off the third. The 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner went eight innings and allowed only three hits, rebounding from a loss to Boston last week that ended a five-game winning streak and marked his first defeat since July 4.

Severino (11-6) gave up four hits — three homers — in 6 2/3 innings and lost for only the second time in 10 starts.

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Christian Vazquez had four hits, including a two-run home run, Eduardo Nunez added a solo shot and Boston beat Toronto, snapping a four-game skid.

Boston also overcame the latest stellar defensive play from center fielder Kevin Pillar, who dived to make a sensational catch on the warning track and take a hit away from Mookie Betts in the sixth. The crowd of 35,630 gave Pillar a standing ovation.

The AL East-leading Red Sox avoided their first five-game losing streak of the season.

Drew Pomeranz (14-4) got the win and Craig Kimbrel gave up two runs before locking down his 30th save. Danny Barnes (2-5) took the loss.

Cubs 6, Pirates 1

In Chicago, Mike Montgomery pitched six-hit ball into the eighth inning and helped himself at the plate, leading the Cubs to the win.

Montgomery (5-6) struck out four and walked none in his second start since he was inserted into the rotation after Jon Lester was placed on the 10-day disabled list. The left-hander was pulled after Jordy Mercer snapped his 17 1/3-inning scoreless streak with a leadoff homer in the eighth.

Carl Edwards Jr. got three outs before Wade Davis finished the six-hitter as Chicago moved 2 1/2 games ahead of idle Milwaukee for the top spot in the NL Central.

Trevor Williams (5-7) hung in there with Montgomery, pitching five innings of two-run ball, but Pittsburgh lost for the 11th time in its last 16 games. Mercer went 3 for 3, David Freese had two hits and Andrew McCutchen singled for the Pirates.

Nationals 11, Marlins 2

In Washington, Max Scherzer overpowered Giancarlo Stanton, Howie Kendrick hit a three-run triple and the Nationals beat Miami.

Scherzer (13-5) allowed one run and five hits, including Christian Yelich's home run, and had 10 strikeouts in his return from the 10-day disabled list.

Stanton, named NL Player of the Week for the second time this month on Monday, went 0 for 3 against Scherzer with two strikeouts and a groundball double play.

Jayson Werth had a two-run homer off Jose Urena (12-6) in his first game with the Nationals since suffering a left foot contusion on June 5.

Giants 3, Padres 0

In San Diego, Jeff Samardzija allowed just three singles in pitching his first shutout since 2015, and Brandon Crawford and Joe Panik homered to lead San Francisco over San Diego.

Samardzija (9-12) frustrated the Padres to beat them for the first time in four starts this year. He allowed infield singles to Wil Myers in the second and Yangervis Solarte in the fifth before Cory Spangenberg singled to right in the eighth. It was his fourth shutout and ninth complete game.

Crawford homered to right-center off Jhoulys Chacin (11-10) leading off the fourth, his 12th. Panik hit a two-run shot off the right-field foul pole off Phil Maton with one out in the eighth, his eighth. Crawford was aboard on a single.

Tigers 4, Rockies 3

In Denver, Nicholas Castellanos had three hits, including a two-run triple, and Jordan Zimmermann rebounded from early trouble to help Detroit beat Colorado.

The Rockies stranded 11 baserunners as they began a nine-game homestand. Their lead for the second NL wild-card spot dwindled to three games over idle Milwaukee.

Zimmermann (8-11) went five innings and allowed three runs—all in the second inning. He settled down to move his career mark to 7-0 against the Rockies in 11 career starts.

Shane Greene struck out two of three in the ninth for his sixth save.

Antonio Senzatela (10-5) never found his command in allowing four runs over 3 2/3 innings.

Orioles 7, Mariners 6

In Baltimore, Adam Jones hit a milestone home run and Welington Castillo had three hits and two RBIs in the Orioles' fifth straight victory.

Chris Davis doubled in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning for the resurgent Orioles, who climbed over .500 (66-65) for the first time since June 11. Baltimore jumped past Seattle (66-66) to within 1 ½ games of idle Minnesota for the final AL wild-card spot.

Jones' solo home run in the fifth inning gave him 25 for an Orioles-record seventh consecutive season. He shared the mark of six with Cal Ripken Jr.

With the score tied at 6, Trey Mancini led off the Baltimore seventh with a single off Emilio Pagan (1-3) and Davis followed with a liner into the right-field corner.

Donnie Hart (2-0) pitched the seventh for the win.

Angels 3, Athletics 1

In Anaheim, California, Andrew Heaney struck out a career-high 10, Martin Maldonado had three hits and scored twice and Los Angeles beat Oakland.

Heaney (1-0), making his third start since Tommy John surgery, struck out the side in the first and the sixth innings. He had his best outing since the surgery, allowing two hits in six innings. He walked three and gave up one home run but worked his way out of trouble behind a strong curveball.

Blake Parker pitched a scoreless ninth for his third save.

Daniel Gossett (3-7) allowed three runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Phillies 6, Braves 1

In Philadelphia, Rhys Hoskins ended his homer streak but did drive in the go-ahead run with a sixth-inning double, Aaron Nola pitched seven strong innings and Philadelphia beat Atlanta.

Cameron Rupp homered for the Phillies, who have connected in 10 straight games and totaled 21 homers over that stretch.

Rookie slugger Hoskins didn't go deep after homering in five straight games while becoming the fastest ever to reach 11 home runs, doing it in 18 games and 64 at-bats. His double just inside the left-field line scored Nick Williams to put the Phillies ahead 2-1.

That was enough for Nola (10-9), who rebounded from two straight subpar outings by allowing one run and five hits with six strikeouts and no walks.

Lucas Sims (2-4) allowed four runs in 6 1/3 innings.

AP source: Matthew Stafford, Lions agree to $135M extension

DETROIT (AP)—Matthew Stafford has made a home in the Motor City, leading the Detroit Lions on the field and becoming a first-time father with twin girls earlier this year.

"Aggressive start," Stafford recently cracked.

The Lions, likewise, made an aggressive move to keep their franchise quarterback around for many more years with the richest contract in NFL history.

Stafford agreed to a $135 million extension, according to a person familiar with the deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because financial terms of the contract were not disclosed. The team announced the five-year deal keeps Stafford under contract through the 2022 season.

He was entering the last year of his $53 million, three-year deal.

Stafford stood to get quite a raise and did, getting more than the $125 million, five-year contract the Oakland Raiders gave Derek Carr this summer.

AP
In this Aug. 19, 2017 photo, Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford throws against the New York Jets during a preseason NFL football game in Detroit. Stafford worked with a quarterback coach on his own for the first time in the offseason, but he won't talk about what he's trying to do differently or about his ongoing contract talks with the Lions.

Stafford recently said he hadn't decided whether he would allow negotiations to drag into the season if both sides failed to reach an agreement before Week 1.

"I had no expectations going into it," Stafford said last week. "So, I'm doing myself and our team a disservice if that's what I'm worried about. I truly am letting the guys upstairs here, and my agent, hash it all out. And, I'm just trying to be as good a football player as I can be and help our team."

Detroit drafted Stafford No. 1 overall in 2009 and gave him $41.7 million in guarantees as part of a six-year contract worth $78 million coming out of Georgia. Shoulder and knee injuries stunted his first two seasons, but Stafford played in every game the next six years.

Stafford won the 2011 AP NFL Comeback Player of the Year award after throwing for more than 5,000 yards and helping the Lions end their 11-season playoff drought.

That year, he helped Detroit become the first team in league history to rally and win four games after being down by at least 13 points, including 20-plus point comebacks at Dallas and Minnesota.

Last season, the Stafford-led Lions became the first NFL team to come back from fourth-quarter deficits to win eight games in a season.

He helped the Lions reach the playoffs for the third time in six seasons, but wasn't able to help them win in the postseason for the first time since the 1991 season.

It certainly hasn't been his fault.

He hasn't ever had a strong running game to lean on and he lost a superstar receiver last year. Despite the retirement of Calvin Johnson last season, Stafford was having one of his best years until a finger injury and stiffer competition stunted his and the team's success.

Stafford throws spirals with a lot of zip and power, squeezing passes into tight windows. He also lofts passes deep down the field with one of the strongest arms in the league. And teammates like him, making him an easy-to-follow leader.

Looking to improve, though, he worked with a QB guru for the first time during the offseason. Stafford trained with Adam Dedeaux at 3DQB in California, where Tom Brady and Drew Brees have gone to refine their skills.

Both the team and Stafford expected to figure out a way to keep him in Detroit.

49ers' Eric Reid resumes national anthem kneel

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—San Francisco 49ers strong safety Eric Reid has resumed his kneeling protest for human rights during the national anthem, after joining then-teammate Colin Kaepernick's polarizing demonstration last season.

Reid knelt while the Star Spangled Banner was played at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minnesota on Sunday night, when the 49ers took on the Vikings in an exhibition. Reed stood for the anthem during the team's first two preseason games. He initially said he'd stopped because of frustration last year about the way the protest was portrayed and perceived by some factions of the public.

The change of heart, Reid said after the 32-31 victory by the Vikings, came after a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Aug. 12 resulted in the death of one counter-protester and injuries to many more.

"We've got to keep talking about the issues that are happening in this country," Reid said. "That's the only way things will change, if we keep shedding light on these topics. Our plan is to continue to do that."

Wide receiver Marquise Goodwin was among the 49ers teammates who put a hand on Reid's shoulder during the anthem.

"It's no secret. All the things that are going on in America, especially being African-American, it's just hard," Goodwin said. "When you have somebody who chooses to take a knee, that's just his right. So as a friend, as a brother, as a teammate, I wouldn't want him to go through anything like that alone. So I had to go support him and let him and everybody else know that I do support him."

Reid said he appreciated the solidarity. 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said he had no problem with the demonstration. Reid said he thinks he'll kneel all season. So what's the goal?

"Change," he said. "Accountability for officers that step outside the line. We want our president to be a president and not threaten to shut down the government over a wall. To change the oppression that happens in this country. It has no place in the world, let alone America. Our goal is to just keep talking about it. Hopefully we inspire people to do something about it through our protests. And this isn't something that's new. I've learned a lot of things throughout the past year about athletes that have talked about the same things that we're talking about. So the goal is just to create some change."

Kaepernick and Reid remain close. After a hard hit on Vikings wide receiver Adam Thielen during the game, Reid kissed his flexed biceps muscle like Kaepernick used to do. The quarterback, who helped lead the 49ers to the Super Bowl after the 2012 season, became a free agent this spring and has not been signed by another team . Other players around the league, like Seattle Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett , have staged their own anthem protests this month.

NMI

From Page 28

Games that will run from Dec. 4 to 15 in Port Vila.

The two teams that will don the colors of the Commonwealth will be determined by a series of games in the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas. The competition will kick off on Saipan with matches to be played from Sept. 5 to 9 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Then at the Tinian Gymnasium, games will take place on Sept. 10, while Rota will have its matches at the Rota Gymnasium from Sept. 22 to 23. Winners in the Saipan, Rota, and Tinian legs will then compete in the final stage of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Victors in the men's and women's open divisions will get slots to the Mini Games. However, players from the winning squad must still meet the eligibility and residency requirements of the Pacific Games Council before they could join Team Marianas in Vanuatu. Athletes eligible for the Mini Games should be citizens/passport holders of the country they are representing and have been residing in that nation for at least five years. In the event that the winning squad has an eligible member, a replacement may be considered. Players who do not meet the eligibility and residency requirements are still encourage to join the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas, as MIBF would like to further promote the sport in the Commonwealth and open doors for CNMI to compete in other off-island events.

Friday meeting

Team captains or representatives of teams interested in participating in the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas are asked to attend the event's final meeting this Friday at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Ada Gym. Entrance fees ($50 per team), copy of rosters, and filled-out registration forms should be turned in at the meeting. Each team is allowed to have a maximum of four players (including one reserve) and every player could register online at 3x3planet.com and create a profile.

For more information, check the event's Facebook page Marianas Hoop Fest or contact Rangamar at 287-6347/234-6672 or MIBF treasurer Preston Basa at 989-2516.

SPC

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and the long distance will take place on Oct. 29.

SPC paddlers joined the 500m event in last year's Micro Cup held in Palau and they missed the semifinals. Marianas Outrigger Club won the sprint with a time of 2:08.56, beating Belau Kanua Club Waterfall, Taotao Galaide Ma'aksom, PCC Mesekiu 3, IFIT, and PCC Mesekiu 1. In the long distance, SPC was ranked fifth out of the 13 teams that completed the 10-mile course after checking in at 1:34:56. MOC also ruled the long distance event (1:28:46), while Hong Kong United (1:31:05) and PCC Mesekiu 3 (1:32:07) rounded out the Top 3.

SPC is expected to face the same squads from Palau, Hong Kong, and the hosts, plus the paddlers from Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia, in the 2017 edition of the Micro Cup.

Meanwhile, SPC will participate in three more local events to warm-up for the October tournament. The club will compete in the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation-organized races on Sept. 17 (distance), Oct. 7 (sprints), and Oct. 8 (distance).

RUGBY

From Page 28

eked out a 12-5 victory over Southside and then shut down Alliance, 36-0, and BCC, 21-0. The Flying Proas went on to extend their winning run and end the CNMI's streak after registering a 14-5 win in the semifinals. The Flying Proas eventually took the championship in the tournament following a 12-7 triumph over Guam Rugby Clug Aiga in the finals, while the Commonwealth played in the battle for third place and bowed to Southside, 7-17.

Meanwhile, after competing in the weekend event, the CNMI Rugby Sevens Team will take a week off and resumes its training sessions on Tuesday. The group will also host three squads from Guam and play training matches with them to warm up for the Mini Games

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	74	57	.565	—
New York	70	60	.538	3½
Baltimore	66	65	.504	8
Tampa Bay	66	67	.496	9
Toronto	61	70	.466	13

Central Division

Cleveland	74	56	.569	—
Minnesota	67	63	.515	7
Kansas City	64	66	.492	10
Detroit	57	73	.438	17
Chicago	52	77	.403	21½

West Division

Houston	79	51	.608	—
Los Angeles	67	65	.508	13
Seattle	66	66	.500	14
Texas	64	66	.492	15
Oakland	58	73	.443	21½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	79	51	.608	—
Miami	66	64	.508	13
Atlanta	57	72	.442	21½
New York	57	73	.438	22
Philadelphia	49	81	.377	30

Central Division

Chicago	70	60	.538	—
Milwaukee	68	63	.519	2½
St. Louis	65	65	.500	5
Pittsburgh	63	69	.477	8
Cincinnati	55	76	.420	15½

West Division

Los Angeles	91	38	.705	—
Arizona	73	58	.557	19
Colorado	71	60	.542	21
San Diego	57	74	.435	35
San Francisco	53	80	.398	40

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8-Black Ball aims to foil Warriors' challenge

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Chow Time 8-Black Ball are hoping to fend off the title plans of the 9 Eleven MJD Warriors and crown themselves the champions in the last three weeks of the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

The 8-Black Ball, after last week's matches, had already compiled 146 wins of the 234 games that they played. They are six wins ahead of the 9 Eleven MJD Warriors (138-96) heading to their Thursday match up against Tasha's Wild Bills (126-108).

The last three weeks could make or break the Black Ball and Warriors' hopes of clinching the league crown. Both teams are hoping to clinch the most number of wins in their last three matches against different squads.

The Warriors' final schedule will be against lowly Tasha's Extreme (86-148) tomorrow, the Chow Time Blue Haus Homeboyz (100-134) on Sept. 7, and lastly the 9 Eleven Titans II (131-103) on Sept. 14.

The Black Ball, after facing the Wild Bill's tomorrow, will take on the Titans II on Sept. 7 and the 9 Eleven Jam Shooters (94-140) on Sept. 14.

The Black Ball upped their win count to 146 after a masterful 10-3 decision against the Sands Team SCS (115-119), the eighth team competing in the league, in their last game on Aug. 24.

The quintet of Mervin Sahagun, Jeff Gayas, Rey Hermogenes, Oliver Gragasin, and Orly Tibus showed Teams SCS' Rowel Mariano, Toto Bigcas, Bryan Fabre, and Jerry Tiu why they are the current leaders of the weekly Thursday League.

Gayas, Sahagun, and Gragasin, however, dropped two Singles and one Partner's 8-Ball matches against Bigcas and Mariano of Team SCS.

The Warriors could have inched closer to Black Ball's won-loss record but could only manage an 8-5 triumph over the Jam Shooters also in last week's matches. The Homeboyz, meanwhile, scored a 9-4 victory against the Extreme, while Wild Bill's defeated Titans II, 8-5.

Tomorrow's other games will have the Homeboyz hosting the Titans II, while the Jam Shooters take on Team SCS in separate venues on the island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 9 Eleven MJD Warriors enjoy their 8-5 win over sister team Jam Shooters in their last week's game in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

SBL hopes weather improves out

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Baseball League is hoping the rainy weather would finally clear out today so games in the new season of the Masters and Under-25 divisions could start at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Tan Ko field was ready to host the games Monday night but heavy rains, brought by a developing tropical disturbance, cancelled the games. Tuesday's match was also rained out.

The Masters are scheduled to play at 6:30pm every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, while the U25 will take the field all Tuesdays and Thursdays at the same time. Both divisions are under SBL's program with the Masters for players over-40 while the other is for the youth.

The Masters' 2017 season was supposed to open last Monday with the defending champions GSM Masters taking on the IPI Masters at 6:30pm, while the U25's match yesterday was supposed between the Pirates and the Blue Jays.

Last year's runners-up, Saisei, is also competing in the Masters to make it a five-team league.

SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said that they would follow the original schedule of games that have been finalized while all rained out matches will be played at a later date or after the regular season ends.

Today's matches, weather permitting, will be between the Papa Bears and the Boleros, while the C.K. Bears would meet the Tanapag Falcons in tomorrow's game in the U25 division.

The SBL has opened the U25 to players starting at 17 years old or those that are used to be under Little League Baseball's Big League division.

Little League headquarters in South Williamsport dropped the Big League division, for players between 17 to 18 years old, both in baseball and softball last year, and set an age limit of 16 or for the Senior League.

The Little League board approved to focus its program on children age four to 16 after seeing less growth and decline of participation from 17- to 18-year-olds in the last 15 years. They represent less than one percent of the Little League program.

The SBL started the U25 league to give former Big League players the chance to continue playing baseball, but within their own age group. The SBL would allow a 16-year-old to be part of a team if he shows that he is capable of competing against those who are older in the division.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rugby 7s players hold ground

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Rugby Sevens Team's Stanley Iakopo is tackled by a defender during one of their games in the 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens held at the University of Guam Calvo Field House in Mangilao over the weekend.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Rugby Sevens Team proved a point after advancing to the semifinals of last weekend's 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens held at the University of Guam Calvo Field House in Mangilao.

"I am extremely proud of our team's performance. They showed courage before, during, and after every game, despite not having any rugby experience," said Northern Marianas Rugy Union president and team member Stanley Iakopo, whose squad saw action in an organized tournament for the first time.

Joining Iakopo on the group are Neemia Vaiagae, Tim Asaivao, Malani Raass, Misionare Tuitamai, Stewart Toilolo, Alvin Takai, Fred Apolo, Kelvin Fitial, Ben Jones Jr., Kentson Tammy, Irvin Olopai, and Oscar Setefano and coach Viliame Kaitabu, and they challenged well-established squads in Guam.

"We knew that we're up against experienced rugby teams, but the CNMI National Rugby Team showed a lot of heart and played their best. We made it to the semifinals which proved that the CNMI is up on the rugby board and we will be ready for Vanuatu," Iakopo added.

The Commonwealth team debuted with a tough win against BBC, 7-5, before pounding Maga'Lahi in its second game in Pool A, 19-0. The CNMI made in three in a row and posted its biggest winning margin after hammering Alliance, 31-0. Iakopo and company dueled Alliance anew for their last match in the elimination round and kept their perfect record going into the semifinals after another lopsided victory, 27-0.

In the semis, the CNMI was paired against Flying Proas, which was also unbeaten in the eliminations, earning a 3-0 record. The Flying Proas

See RUGBY on Page 26

NMI to send women's 3x3 team to Vanuatu

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will be represented by two teams in the basketball competition in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation general secretary Elias Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they will also send a women's squad in the quadrennial meet that will be held in Vanuatu in December. MIBF earlier announced that it will only field a men's team in the basketball contest in the Mini

See NMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
In this file photo, two Mt. Carmel School players go for the rebound against a Tinian High School player during a local tournament last year. Marianas Islands Basketball Federation will have women's division games on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas.

SPC names men's team to Micro Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Paddling Club will only compete in the men's division of the 19th Micronesia Cup that will be held in Guam.

SPC president and coach Justin Andrew confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* that the club will field a six-man crew in the tournament that will run from Oct. 26 to 29 at Matapang Beach in Tamuning.

"A lean and strong crew, we hope," said Andrew, who is part of the squad and will be joined by his son Joshua, Carter Calma, Benusto Olopai, Icemwar Somorang, and Jay Limes.

The SPC paddlers have been training four times a week in the last three months in preparation for the Micro Cup.

"We are training hard and have added one more day on the water. We have also incorporated some land-based training to supplement our canoe paddling water time," Justin said.

The six-man SPC team will be racing in the 500m, 1,000m, and long distance (10-mile course) events. The preliminary, semis, and finals of the 1,000m race will be held on Oct. 27, while the 500m is set for Oct. 28,

See SPC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joshua Andrew, right, leads Saipan Paddling Club to the finish line during a local race last year at Kilili Beach.